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Volume 78, No. 130 ©SS 2019

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Russia moves to fill void US left in Syria

BY LEFERIS PITRAKIS
AND BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

CEYLANPINAR, Turkey — Russia moved to fill the void left by the United States in northern Syria on Tuesday, deploying troops to keep apart advancing Syrian government and Turkish forces. At the same time, tensions grew within NATO as

Turkey defied growing condemnation of its invasion from its Western allies.

Now in its seventh day, Turkey's offensive against Kurdish fighters has upended alliances and is redrawing the map of northern Syria for yet another time in the 8-year-old war.

Russia moved quickly to further entrench its role as a power broker

after President Donald Trump ordered the pullout of American forces in northeastern Syria. The American move effectively abandoned the Kurdish fighters who were allied with the U.S. and cleared the way for Turkey's invasion aimed at crushing them.

Desperate for a new protector, the Kurdish administration struck a deal with the Russia-backed gov-

ernment of Syrian President Bashar Assad, whose forces on Sunday began moving into Kurdish-administered areas to shield them against Turkey.

Syrian troops waved flags in the streets after they rolled into Manbij, a flashpoint town west of the Euphrates River that Turkey had been

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Changing COURSE

Revamped path to join Army's
Special Forces draws scrutiny

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

CAMP MACKALL, N.C. — Deep in the dark North Carolina woods, a small white light flickers in the heavy underbrush. It's after midnight and a soldier is taking a risk by turning on his headlamp to find his way.

The overnight land navigation test is just one hurdle in the grueling, monthslong course to join the Army's elite Special Forces, and using the light violates the rules. Just the night before, at least 20 commando hopefuls had either committed a disqualifying failure or given up in the drenching rain.

"We got a light!" barks an Army instructor from the front seat of his truck as he patrols the woods. Almost instantly the tiny white beacon goes out as the soldier spots the truck headlights and tries to escape detection.

For the nearly 200 candidates scrambling through Hoffman Forest at Camp Mackall, the struggle to become a Green Beret is real. But Army commanders are making sweeping changes to shorten and revamp the course. The aim is to meet evolving national security threats and to shift from a culture that weeds out struggling soldiers at every point to one that trains them to do better.

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A soldier checks a compass while completing a land navigation course during Special Forces Assessment and Selection near Hoffman, N.C., in May.

KEN KASSENS, U.S. ARMY/AP

MILITARY

WWII vet shares her story about her place in history

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

Find the latest news from the
AUSA meeting on [strips.com](https://www.strips.com)

WASHINGTON — For more than an hour Monday, dozens of female soldiers and veterans at the Association of the United States Army annual meeting in Washington took turns shaking the hand of Indiana Hunt-Martin, a 97-year-old World War II veteran whom many of them credited for “paving the way” for their service.

Hunt-Martin is one of seven living veterans from the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only all-black, all-female unit to serve in Europe during the war. Known as the Six Triple Eight, the battalion of 855 women managed a major backlog of mail from Americans to their loved ones overseas.

The women were “unheralded and unnoticed” when they returned home, said Anne Macdonald, a retired brigadier general and president of the Army Women’s Foundation.

Recently, the unit has garnered some attention. A monument honoring the battalion was established last year at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and there’s now an effort underway to award the women the Congressional Gold Medal.

“It took them 70 years to recognize we had done a good job,” Hunt-Martin told the crowd Monday, prompting laughter and applause.

The audience watched a screening of a documentary about the unit, “The Six Triple Eight: No Mail, Low Morale,” which premiered earlier this year. It details the battalion’s mission, as well as the sexism and racism they endured while serving.

The 6888th left the United States in February 1945 and returned the next year. They worked in Birmingham, England, and Rouen, France, where they sorted and sent packages. To start, there were multiple hangars full of mail, some of it more

than two years old and addressed only with soldiers’ first names.

The battalion worked all day, every day, in three shifts. They finished the job in Birmingham in three months — half of the time they were given for the mission.

“It was kind of rough for us for awhile,” Hunt-Martin said. “The mail was piled ... you couldn’t imagine how high up it had gotten.”

Hunt-Martin graduated high school in Niagara Falls, N.Y. During the 1940s, there wasn’t much opportunity there for a black woman, she said.

“The only jobs you were offered were either day work, cleaning bathrooms, stuff like that,” Hunt-Martin said. “Nothing like clerk work or office work. That was not offered to us at all.”

When the war started, Hunt-Martin read about blacks joining the military and decided to enlist. She was assigned to the Six Triple Eight, which was under the command of Lt. Col. Charity Adams Earley, the first black woman to be an officer in the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps. At one point, Earley, who died in 2002, contended with a general who wanted to send a white officer to take over the battalion.

“The longer the Six Triple Eight was on the job, the more we appreciated the value of our work,” Earley said during a televised ceremony in 1995. “How mail ... would make the loneliness, the fear, the death of friends, all of this, easier to bear. There was no black, no white, no rank — just an understanding of our mantra: ‘No mail, low morale.’”

When the unit completed its mission and came home, there was no fanfare, Hunt-Martin said. She quickly found a clerical job with the Department of Labor in New York City, then transferred to a Labor De-



NIKKI WENTLING/Stars and Stripes

Indiana Hunt-Martin, 97, who served in the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only all-black, all-female unit to serve in Europe during World War II, chats with Sgt. 1st Class Natasha Huertas on Monday at the Association of the United States Army annual meeting in Washington.

partment office in Niagara Falls.

Back in the town where she was raised, Hunt-Martin again faced racism and broke barriers. Being the only black employee, she was assigned to the back of the office.

“They were surprised when I got there; they didn’t have black office workers in Niagara Falls at that time,” she said. “They didn’t know what to do with me. They stuck me there in the back, filing stuff.”

After “quite a few years,” the office got a new manager, who questioned why Hunt-Martin wasn’t working at the front counter.

“He soon put me up front, finally working the desk with the white girls,” Hunt-Martin recalled. “That was something unusual at that time.”

Macdonald, whose organization honors and advocates for current and former Army women, said the Six Triple Eight was only recently recognized at the national level.

In 2016, the unit was inducted into the U.S. Army Women’s Hall of Fame. Last year, the battalion was given the Meritorious Unit Award, and the living members

attended the unveiling of The 6888th Monument at Fort Leavenworth.

Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., introduced legislation in February to award the women the Congressional Gold Medal. Rep. Gwen Moore, D-Wis., introduced a companion bill in the House. Both bills were referred to committees, but lawmakers have not yet taken action on them.

Hunt-Martin said she never expected it. “To tell you the truth, I never thought of anything like this before,” she said Monday, in between taking photos with other female veterans and servicemembers. “All of a sudden, they discovered us or something.”

Sgt. 1st Class Natasha Huertas waited behind several other women for the chance to speak with Hunt-Martin. When she got to her, Huertas put her hand on the older woman’s shoulder and thanked her.

“Thank you for paving the way for women of color in the military,” Huertas said. “Thank you for what you did for us.”

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PACIFIC



CAITLIN DOORNBOS/Stars and Stripes

Sailors rake debris at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Tuesday, days after deadly Typhoon Hagibis ripped through the area.

More victims, more damage found in typhoon aftermath

By HARUKA NUGA
AND MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

NAGANO, Japan — The toll of death and destruction from a typhoon that tore through central and northern Japan climbed Tuesday, as the government said it was considering approving a special budget for the disaster response and eventual reconstruction.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a parliamentary session that the number of deaths tied to Typhoon Hagibis had climbed to 53 and was expected to rise, as at least another nine people are presumed dead. Kyodo News agency, citing its own tally, put the death toll at 69. The toll numbers remain in flux.

Abe pledged to do the utmost for the safety and rescue of those missing or those who had to evacuate. "We put the people's lives first," he said.

Hagibis hit Japan's main island Saturday with strong winds and historic rainfall that caused more than 200 rivers to overflow, leaving thousands of homes flooded, damaged or without power. Rescue crews on Tuesday were still searching for those missing, thought to number about 20.

Some 34,000 homes were without power and 110,000 lacked running water. More than 30,000 people were still at shelters as of late Monday, according to the Cabinet Office's latest tally.

Business appeared nearly back to normal in central Tokyo, and residents in areas where floodwater subsided started



Kyodo News/AP

A residential area in Nagano, Japan, is flooded after an embankment of the Chikuma River broke due to Typhoon Hagibis.

cleaning up. Lives, however, remained paralyzed in Nagano, Fukushima and other hard-hit areas that were still inundated.

Some residents in Nagano returned to their homes, only to find they were not habitable.

Retired carpenter Toshitaka Yoshimura, who grew up in the Tsuno district of Nagano, was stunned when he returned to his home after staying at an evacuation center during the storm. His house was a mess. Doors were knocked out, his handmade furniture was tossed around and damaged, and everything from a futon to electronics were broken and covered with mud.

"I put a lot of effort in this house. I made all the furniture with my wife. Now look what happened in one day," he said, with his voice trembling with emotion. "Now this makes me want to cry."

At least some of his memorable photos with his family

and relatives were intact, along with toys and games that his younger relatives played when they gathered at his house.

"I'm glad they survived at least," said his nephew, Kazuki Yoshimura. "Perhaps we can still do something about the house, but nothing can be more precious than life."

In Fukushima, 11 bags containing possibly radioactive soil and debris removed as part of decontamination efforts from the 2011 meltdown of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant were washed from two outdoor temporary storage sites and found downstream, the Environment Ministry said.

Most of the remaining 5,000 bags stacked up at the two sites — one in Tamura and another Iitate — remained in place.

There was no risk to the environment because the watertight bags were intact and hadn't leaked, the ministry said.

'Safe outcome' at military bases in Japan after storm

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
AND SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Naval Air Facility Atsugi appeared the worst hit by Typhoon Hagibis on Saturday of the U.S. military bases in and around Tokyo, according to official statements.

The base, 25 miles southwest of the city center, lay along the storm's path after the eye came ashore over the Izu peninsula Saturday evening.

Atsugi suffered "structural or water damage to more than 20 structures," according to an official base Facebook post Monday. Roofs were torn off some buildings, trees were damaged and debris was thrown around the base.

Still, the base's emergency management office credited "a relatively safe outcome" to "command, tenant and resident preparation," according to the post.

A request for comment on cleanup efforts went unanswered Tuesday, a holiday for the U.S. military.

Meanwhile, the civilian death toll from Hagibis climbed on Tuesday as cleanup work continued across Japan's main island of Honshu, where a dozen rescues were underway, according to Japanese media.

By comparison, the U.S. military reported no deaths or injuries from the storm.

At Camp Zama, an Army base 40 miles southwest of Tokyo, damage was light.

"The U.S. Army Garrison Japan installations were very fortunate as they sustained only minimal typhoon damage," according to an email Tuesday from base spokeswoman Gwendolyn Smalls. "Damage included minor tearing to the protective netting that stretches along the Camp Zama Golf Course, a few downed trees and minor storm drain blockage due to shrubbery debris."

Her email included a statement from U.S. Army Garrison Japan commander Col. Thomas R. Matselki.

"Our entire community did a wonderful job preparing for this typhoon, from securing outdoor belongings to having updated emergency kits," he said. "I want to personally thank them for taking the steps to stay connected, stay informed and stay safe."

At Yokota Air Base — the Tokyo home of U.S. Forces Japan and the 5th Air Force — the storm did little more than keep its residents indoors for most of the day.

"Thanks to early preparation

efforts made by our Civil Engineer Squadron and our Airmen and families, other than a few trees that were knocked down on base and at Tama Hills, there was no significant damage due to the storm," said 374th Airfield Wing spokeswoman Kaori Matsukasa.

Tama Hills is a recreation area about a half-hour drive from Yokota.

At Yokosuka Naval Base, 42 miles south of Tokyo, yellow barriers continued to block traffic Tuesday along a length of First Avenue between the base athletic field and fire station.

About 20 sailors were raking debris nearby. The seawall in that area was heavily damaged by Typhoon Faxai in mid-September.

'The U.S. Army Garrison Japan installations were very fortunate as they sustained only minimal typhoon damage.'

Gwendolyn Smalls

Camp Zama, an Army base spokeswoman

base spokeswoman said the base's eastern shoreline was swept into a large pile. Base public affairs did not respond to questions about the extent of the damage to base facilities Tuesday.

Camp Fuji, home of the Marine Corps' combined arms training center in mainland Japan, suffered "no significant impacts," according to Marine Corps Installations Pacific spokesman Maj. Andrew Aranda.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, speaking to a budget committee of the country's legislature Tuesday, said he intended to declare Hagibis a "severe natural disaster" to increase subsidies for reconstruction in affected areas, according to public broadcaster NHK.

The broadcast company reported 66 people had died — one of several estimates given with 25 from Fukushima prefecture, the hardest-hit area, in northeastern Honshu. Leaves at 66 locations on 47 rivers had collapsed due to record-breaking rainfall during the typhoon.

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MIDEAST

Trump announces Turkey sanctions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Targeting Turkey's economy, President Donald Trump announced sanctions aimed at restraining the Turks' assault against Kurdish fighters and civilians in Syria — an assault Turkey began after Trump announced he was moving U.S. troops out of the way.

Some of those U.S. troops leaving northern Syria are being shifted to Iraq, where they could conduct cross-border operations against Islamic State militants, a U.S. official said.

The United States also called on Turkey to stop the invasion and declare a cease-fire, and Trump is sending Vice President Mike Pence and national security adviser Robert O'Brien to Ankara as soon as possible in an attempt to bring negotiations to a halt. On Monday that Trump spoke directly to Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who promised not to attack the border town of Kobani, which in 2015 witnessed ISIS' first defeat in a battle with

U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters.

The Americans were scrambling for Syria's exits, a move criticized at home and abroad as opening the door to a resurgence of ISIS, whose violent takeover of Syrian and Iraqi lands five years ago was the reason American forces went in the first place.

The Turks began attacks in Syria last week against the Syrian Kurdish fighters, whom the Turks see as terrorists. On Monday, Syrian government troops moved north toward the border region, setting up a potential clash with Turkish-led forces.

In his sanctions announcement, Trump said he was halting negotiations on a \$100 billion trade deal with Turkey and raising steel tariffs back up to 50%. Trump also imposed sanctions on three senior Turkish officials and Turkey's Defense and Energy ministries.

"I am fully prepared to swiftly destroy Turkey's economy if Turkish leaders continue down this dangerous and destructive path," Trump said.

Report: US mulls removing nuclear weapons from Incirlik

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The U.S. is reviewing plans to evacuate tactical nuclear weapons stored at Incirlik Air Base in light of ongoing tensions with Turkey, according to media reports.

The U.S. State and Energy departments were examining plans for potentially moving the weapons, which are roughly 250 miles from the Syrian border. The New York Times reported Monday, citing two unnamed officials.

The U.S. faces a dilemma over what to do with the weapons. Flying them out of Turkey risks further damaging the already troubled relationship with a long-time NATO ally, while keeping the arms in Incirlik would mean leaving them in a country that Defense Secretary Mark Esper warned on Sunday was "spinning out of the Western orbit."

While not addressing the nuclear issue, Esper said on Fox News that "the arc of (Turkey's) behavior over the past several years has been terrible."

To keep the weapons in Incirlik would perpetuate a vulnerability that should have been eliminated years ago, a senior official told the Times.

Even before Turkey's military intervention last week in Syria, nuclear watchdogs had raised alarms about holding the weapons at Incirlik amid a steadily deteriorating relationship between the West and Turkey. Some for-

mer U.S. military officials also have urged the Pentagon to look for places other than Turkey to base U.S. troops.

Stored at Incirlik are B61 gravity bombs, which at their maximum yield are about 10 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The weapons can be dialled back to explode with a smaller yield.

Critics of the Incirlik arsenal argue the warheads are more of a legacy of the Cold War than a crucial part of the U.S.' present day nuclear deterrent strategy.

U.S. European Command on Tuesday did not respond directly to a question about the status of nuclear weapons in Turkey.

"There have been no changes to the daily operations at Incirlik Air Base," said Mark Mackowiak, a EUCOM spokesman.

While the U.S. military as a rule does not comment on where it stores nuclear weapons in Europe, a NATO-affiliated report released in April confirmed what was an open secret in security circles: U.S. nuclear weapons are stored at bases in Kleine Brogel in Belgium, Buechel in Germany, Aviano and Ghedi-Torre in Italy, Volkel in the Netherlands and Incirlik in Turkey.

The locations were mentioned in a report for the Defense and Security Committee of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and were published in July by a Belgian newspaper.

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Usur Can, DHA/AP

Turkey's forces advance Monday toward Manbij, Syria. A U.S. military spokesman says U.S. forces have left the Kurdish-held town of Manbij.

Syria: US military spokesman confirms troops have completed pullout from Manbij

FROM FRONT PAGE

aiming to capture and wrest from Kurdish control. Video by Russian journalists with the troops showed what appeared to be an abandoned outpost where U.S. forces had been stationed.

A U.S. military spokesman, Col. Myles B. Caggins, confirmed U.S. troops had completed their pullout from Manbij. During the withdrawal, contacts were kept open with the Turks and Russians to ensure the several hundred American forces there got out safely, U.S. officials said.

U.S. troops have had outposts in Manbij since 2017, when they went in to avert a battle over the town between Turkish and Kurdish fighters.

Now Russia was playing that role. Outside Manbij, Russian troops patrolled front lines between Turkish and Syrian army positions to keep them apart, Russia's Defense Ministry said.

"No one is interested" in fighting between Syrian government troops and Turkish forces, said Alexander Lavrentyev, Moscow's envoy for Syria. Russia "is not going to allow it," he told Russian state news agencies.

Kurdish leaders and representatives of the Syrian government held talks at a Russian military base last week, Lavrentyev said, adding he was unaware of any results.

Kelli Craft, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, told reporters Washington is "deeply concerned" that Russian troops are patrolling between the two sides.

Russia has been a staunch ally of Assad for decades and entered the Syrian conflict in 2015, providing air cover that eventually turned the tide of the war in his favor. The Russian military has shipped weapons to Damascus, trained thousands of troops and put its advisers in key Syrian military units. Several hundred Russian contractors also have reportedly fought alongside Syrian government troops, but their role in Assad's offensives does not appear to be significant.

In the first week of the Turkish assault, at least 154 fighters from

the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces have been killed, as well as 128 fighters from Turkish-backed Syrian factions, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitor of the war. It said at least 69 civilians have been killed in Syria.

Turkey says six of its soldiers have died, as well as at least 20 Turkish civilians killed by Kurdish mortar fire across the border.

Two Turkish soldiers and seven others were wounded in a mortar attack from Manbij, the Turkish Defense Ministry said, noting it attacked and threatened an estimated 15 Syrian Kurdish fighters.

An Associated Press team later saw up to 200 Turkish troops along with armored vehicles crossing into Syria at Jarablus, near Manbij and Kobani, a border town that is not yet secured by Syrian forces.

Further east on the border, Kurdish fighters battled to retake Ras al-Ayn, a town captured by Turkish forces days earlier. An AP journalist reported heavy Turkish bombardment of targets in the countryside around it. The Syrian Observatory said Syrian Kurdish fighters had retaken the town, but it appeared it was still being contested.

A U.S. official said the approximately 600 U.S. troops being withdrawn from northern Syria will reposition in Iraq, Kuwait and possibly Jordan. The U.S. forces in Iraq could conduct cross-border operations against Islamic State in Syria as they did before creating the now-abandoned partnership with Syrian Kurdish-led forces, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

After opening the way for the Turkish assault with its pullout, Washington is now trying to restrain its fellow NATO member.

Trump on Monday announced sanctions aimed at Turkey's economy while European Union countries moved to broaden an arms sale embargo.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan defended Turkey's offensive in a column in the Wall Street Journal, urging

the international community to support Ankara's effort to create what it calls a resettlement "safe zone" for refugees in northeastern Syria, or "begin admitting refugees."

"Turkey reached its limit," Erdogan wrote of the 3.6 million Syrians in his country. He said Turkey's warnings it would be unable to stop refugee floods into the West without international support "fell on deaf ears."

Turkey said it invaded northern Syria to create a zone of control the entire length of the border and drive out the Kurdish fighters, which it regards as terrorists because of their links to Kurdish insurgents in Turkey.

Instead, after the Kurds' deal with Damascus, a new de facto carving up of the border appeared to be taking shape.

Turkish forces control the beginnings of a truncated zone of the area seven years ago to fight rebels elsewhere. They are hoping, perhaps with Russian mediation, to reach a final deal that would preserve some degree of that autonomy.

With their deal with Damascus, the Kurds risk losing the virtual self-rule they have enjoyed across the northeast — the heartland of their minority community — ever since Assad pulled his troops out of the area seven years ago to fight rebels elsewhere. They are hoping, perhaps with Russian mediation, to reach a final deal that would preserve some degree of that autonomy.

But they gain protection. So far, Turkey appears reluctant to clash with Syrian forces wherever they move in. The Turkish-led forces continue to fight for places held solely by the Kurds.

The U.N. humanitarian aid coordinator said at least 160,000 civilians in northeastern Syria have been displaced amid the Turkish operations, mostly from Ras al-Ayn and Tal Abyad, where people are fleeing south.

MIDEAST

Ax to grind

Turkey's Syrian fighters motivated by hatred of Kurds, intolerance for dissent, desire to make money

By SARAH EL DEEB
AND JOSEPH KRAUSS
Associated Press

BEIRUT — The Syrian fighters vowed to kill “pigs” and “infidels,” paraded their Kurdish captives in front of cameras and, in one graphic video, fired several rounds into a man lying on the side of a highway with his hands bound behind his back.

They are part of the self-styled Syrian National Army, the shock troops in Turkey's offensive against U.S.-allied Kurdish forces who were abandoned last week after President Donald Trump ordered the withdrawal of American troops from northern Syria.

The Syrian fighters, trained and funded by Turkey, present themselves as heirs to the uprising against Syrian President Bashar Assad. But while they include some Islamic extremists and past members of some Syrian rebel factions, many are Arab and Turkmen fighters from northern and eastern Syria who have an ax to grind against the Kurds and a reputation for violence and looting.

“The main problem with these forces is their criminality,” said Elizabeth Tsurkov, a fellow at the U.S.-based Foreign Policy Research Institute who has interviewed dozens of the fighters and said they appear to be driven by a desire for power and money, rather than by any specific ideology. “Hatred of Kurds, a sense of Arab chauvinism, complete intolerance for any dissent and just a desire to make a profit is what's driving most of the abuses,” she said.

Since Turkey began funding the force in 2016, its fighters have yet to battle Assad's troops.

Instead, they have mostly fought in Turkey's cross-border offensives against Islamic State and the Syrian Democratic Forces, a Kurdish-led militia that had partnered with the United States and battled ISIS extremists with far greater success.

In the latest offensive, the Turkish-led Syrian forces have pushed deep into northeastern Syria, an ethnically and religiously mixed region, raising fears of ethnic conflict and human rights abuses. Some of the factions allied with Turkey have been accused of brutality, and others include hard-line Islamic militants in their ranks.

Turkey views the Kurdish militia that forms the core of the SDF as a terrorist group because of its links to Kurdish fighters who have waged a decades-long insurgency inside Turkey. After threatening for months to invade northeastern Syria and carve out

a “safe zone” along the border, Turkey launched an offensive last week after Trump cleared the way for it by moving U.S. troops out of the way.

As the situation on the ground descends into chaos and Syrian government troops move north to lend support to their former foes, the Kurds, Turkey's Syrian fighters are pouring across the border from Turkey, posting videos in which they threaten Kurdish “pigs” and “atheists.”

Casualties taken

Backed by Turkish airstrikes and artillery, the fighters have provided the bulk of the ground forces and taken the most casualties.

At least 16 Syrian fighters have been killed, compared with four Turkish soldiers, since the operation began last week.

Over the weekend they captured a major highway that runs across northern Syria. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said the Turkey-backed fighters shot and killed six civilians along the road, including Hevreen Khalaf, a woman who led a Kurdish political party.

In a video circulated online, fighters can be seen rushing toward a bullet-ridden armored vehicle, saying they have captured a “pig.” A woman's faint voice can be heard from within, saying she is the head of a political party. The video indicates Khalaf was captured alive and later died or was killed.

A U.S. military official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss operational details, said “extremist Turkish proxies” had advanced along the highway, setting up checkpoints where they posed as Kurdish fighters and killed civilians.

In a series of tweets, one of the Turkey-backed groups, known as Ahrar al-Shariya, posted pictures of two supposed Kurdish fighters it said it had captured.

Another video posted online showed the Syrian fighters screaming, “God is greatest” as they fired several rounds into a bound prisoner who resembled one of the captured men in the previous video.

A spokesman for Ahrar al-Shariya, Al-Harith Rabah, said his force had set up a checkpoint on the highway and fired at those



AP photos

Turkey-backed forces from the Free Syrian Army stand in formation Oct. 7 during military maneuvers in preparation for a Turkish incursion targeting Syrian Kurdish fighters near Azaz town, northern Syria.



Turkey-backed fighters flash the V for victory sign as they are driven through the town of Akcakale, Sanliurfa province, southeastern Turkey, last week on their way to cross the border to Tel Abyad, Syria.

who refused to stop. He said the man killed in the video was a Kurdish fighter in civilian clothes who had fought until he ran out of ammunition.

He said the Turkey-backed force is investigating the shooting and had summoned the gunmen for questioning.

“We provided proof they were armed men,” Rabah told The Associated Press. “Anyone on the battlefield, when there is resistance, one is obligated to react and deal with those who resist.”

ISIS slogans

Turkish officials did not respond to a request for comment on the Syrian forces, some of whom are heard using religious language in some of the videos, even borrowing slogans from ISIS.

At least some of the factions include Islamic extremists. The Rojava Information Center, an activist collective in the Kurdish-held areas, has identified at least 40 former ISIS militants among the Turkey-backed fighters.

Tsurkov said one faction is made up of fighters from Idlib, a stronghold for an al-Qaida-linked

group, who are “less prone to criminality and just straight-up extremists.”

That bothers ill for northeastern Syria, home to a patchwork of Kurdish, Christian and other minority communities that have already suffered throughout the rise of ISIS and the devastating war that dismantled its self-styled caliphate.

The U.N. said more than 130,000 people have fled since the Turkish operation began. As Syrian Kurdish forces fall back, there are fears that those who remain will end up like the residents of Afrin, a Kurdish enclave in northwestern Syria seized by Turkey and its Syrian allies early last year.

Rights groups say the Turkey-backed fighters looted and destroyed the property of Kurdish civilians in Afrin.

Last month, a U.N. commission said the overall security situation in and around Afrin “remained dire” as armed groups carved out their own fiefdoms. The Rojava Information Center said some factions have imposed a strict form of Islamic law.

“There is a general absence of rule of law and repeated incidents of kidnappings, torture, extortion and assassination,” the U.N. commission said, adding that victims were “often of Kurdish origin as well as civilians perceived as being prosperous, including doctors, businessmen and merchants.”

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Turkey's Syrian fighters are pouring across the border, posting videos threatening Kurdish “pigs” and “atheists.”

MILITARY

Course: Critics say changes will make force weaker, 'less capable'

FROM FRONT PAGE

The changes that are beginning now have led to resentment among some Special Forces that the brass wants to make it easier to pass the qualification course as a way to boost lagging recruiting numbers and ensure that women will eventually qualify. The fear, such critics say, is that Green Berets will become weaker and "dangerously less capable than ever before."

Army leaders insist the changes reflect the military's need to adapt to evolving security threats from Russia, China, Iran and others foes. They say the nearly two-year course had to be shortened, so some training will be done when soldiers get to their units, where it can be tailored to the specific needs of the region.

"Today's qualification course is for exactly the type of Green Beret we needed for 2008. It is not what we need for 2028," said Maj. Gen. Kurt Sonntag, who until recently was commander of the Army Special Operations Center of Excellence, which includes all the Special Forces training. "We need to reestablish our forte, which is our ability to work with partner forces, developing their capabilities to provide an advantage for them and the United States against our adversaries — North Korea, Iran and China and Russia."

Sonnag and other commanders, current and former instructors and students at the Special Forces training base at Camp Mackall, N.C., spoke with The Associated Press during a rare, two-day look at the course, including observation of the overnight land navigation test.

The more than 6,700 Army Green Berets are highly trained commandos who usually work in 12-person teams that are often used for specialized combat and counterterrorism operations and to train other nations' forces in battle skills. About a dozen died in combat this year, mainly working with Afghan forces fighting the Taliban; others are training troops in up to 60 countries.

Solid basic skills

The changes were driven by discussions with senior leaders, including Maj. Gen. John Deedrick, commander of 1st Special Forces Command, who told Sonntag he wanted soldiers to come out of the course with solid basic skills that can be sharpened when they get to their unit.

"If you try to make them an expert in everything, you're gonna give me a Swiss Army knife that can't do a little bit of everything but isn't real good," he said in an interview in his Fort Bragg, N.C., office. "I'd prefer to have him very good at the basics, and then let me tailor what he's gonna do in the long run."

The new course drops some training, shifts some around and eliminates gaps in the schedule. For example, language training will now come after soldiers graduate the course, becoming a skill to learn rather than one needed to pass to stay in the course.

Also, because the new Pentagon strategy is focused on threats from China and Russia, rather than wars against insurgents, some counterterrorism skills will be tailored to specific regions and taught after soldiers are in their units.

Senior Army leaders endorse the changes.

Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said Sonntag "really grinded through this to make adjustments to the course to make it more effective and streamline the amount of time they're in the school-house" so they get to their assigned units more quickly. The new training, he said, will be more relevant to current threats. The changes, however, caused an uproar among some instructors in the Special Forces community.

In a lengthy and anonymous 2017 email, a Green Beret instructor argued that "career-focused leaders" have eroded standards in the qualification course in order to meet graduation quotas. The email charged that allowing women to compete for special operations jobs was also responsible because commanders want to "markedly lower the standards enough to ensure that any woman attempting this path will have absolutely no issue achieving it."

It complained that soldiers who fail a skill or fitness test weren't weeded out but allowed to continue or given a second chance. The path to becoming a Green Beret consists of several phases, beginning with a grueling assessment and selection phase in which commanders believe they can identify soldiers who cannot make the grade or do not belong. The bulk of those who try out fail. Some who get injured or fall are allowed to return and try again.

In the 2019 budget year, more than 3,000 soldiers showed up for the assessment phase, with 936 passing and going on to the qualification course. Of those, about 70 percent graduated and

'Today's qualification course is for exactly the type of Green Beret we needed for 2008. It is not what we need for 2028.'

Maj. Gen. Kurt Sonntag
former commander
of the Army Special
Operations Center
of Excellence



PHOTOS BY KEN KASSENS, U.S. ARMY/AP

A student from the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School practices setting a paintball deadfall trap for small game during the survival phase of Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape Level-C training at Camp Mackall, N.C., on Feb. 28.



Special Forces candidates patrol through a wooded area during the final phase of field training known as Robin Sage in central North Carolina on July 9.

donned the Green Beret.

Sonnag said unqualified troops should be dropped, but that once soldiers make it through the assessment phase, the focus should be on training them to meet the standards.

Attrition

Former instructors told The Associated Press that the course has changed often over the decades. Chris Zets, a retired Green Beret who worked as a course instructor, said the attrition rate shot up in recent years as the training expanded and instructors added more intermittent fitness tests and requirements. Commanders, including Sonntag, were asked to

straight, understands small-unit tactics and how to apply that with a partner force. And someone who can problem-solve. You give me that raw material coming out of the course, and we'll do just fine," said Deedrick, the commander of 1st Special Forces Command.

Others, however, say the up-roar over the changes is a troubling sign.

"The danger of one unqualified officer making it through to command a Special Forces team is a balance that requires difficult choices," said retired Brig. Gen. Donald Bolduc, a former Special Forces commander. He said some instructors were concerned with exceptions being made for some soldiers in the course. "If they are concerned, I am concerned," he said.

And, he said, the fact that they resorted to an anonymous email suggested they feared retribution or did not feel comfortable going to leadership.

In fact, several instructors associated with the email posting ended up facing discipline or getting forced out — triggering charges that Sonntag sought re-venge for the criticism.

Senior Army officials said a board of inquiry into Sonntag's actions cleared him of any wrongdoing. In all but one case, officials and internal documents say, the soldiers were disciplined for infractions unrelated to the email, ranging from assault and travel fraud to being absent without leave and using government computers to promote a personal online business.

One soldier was charged with writing the email, lying about it and using his job to promote a personal business, the internal document said.

Officials, however, also acknowledge there were lingering concerns about Sonntag fostering a toxic command climate and failing to communicate well enough with the troops about the changes in the course.

While he was cleared of wrongdoing, Sonntag was not promoted and instead has decided to retire, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel issues.

figure out why.

"You can ratchet it up and up and up and up to the point where you don't graduate anybody and nobody volunteers to come here," said Zets, who went through the course in 1979. "So, yeah, we've increased the standards, but then you don't have anybody going to the force. So there's a balancing act."

Under the new program, once soldiers pass the assessment phase, they move to small-unit tactics and survival training, then four months of more specialized job instruction and then six weeks of exercises and other training before graduation.

"I want somebody physically fit, culturally astute, morally

WAR/MILITARY



ANDREW SOTO/U.S. Marine Corps

Hands-on with the baton

U.S. Marines with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa 20.1, Marine Forces Europe and Africa, rehearse baton techniques on Moron Air Base, Spain, this month.

UN: 85 civilians killed in attacks targeting election in Afghanistan

By RAHIM FAIEZ
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The United Nations on Tuesday released a special report that describes the severe toll of election-related violence on Afghanistan's civilians, mainly from the Taliban's campaign targeting its presidential election last month.

Afghans voted on Sept. 28 despite the militants' threats and violence. However, the polling was marred by widespread misconduct and accusations of fraud — as well as controversy over what appeared to be low turnout and claims from a lead contender, Abdullah Abdullah, that he had won the vote.

The report said that attacks aiming to disrupt the electoral process killed 85 people and wounded 373 others across the country. The number includes 277 civilian casualties, 28 of whom were killed on the polling day.

The U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said in the report that more than one-third of civil-

ian casualties were children.

The report not only documents the casualties caused by the Taliban's violent offensive to disrupt the election, but also highlights a pattern of abductions, threats, intimidation and harassment carried out by the insurgents against civilians leading up to and during the elections.

"These attacks, along with public statements made by the Taliban, revealed a deliberate campaign intended to undermine the electoral process and deprive Afghan citizens of their right to participate in this important political process. Freely and without fear," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the U.N. Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan. "Many Afghan people, however, defied the threats and cast their votes."

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani pushed to hold the controversial vote despite the abrupt collapse in U.S.-Taliban peace talks earlier in September. The election's results have also been delayed, further deepening the

political uncertainty gripping the country.

Hawa Alam Nuristani, head of the Independent Election Commission, said that the goal is to announce the preliminary results by Saturday.

The U.N. also urged the electoral commission to safeguard and properly complete the election process.

Preliminary figures from the U.N. indicated that overall civilian casualties were significantly lower in 2019 compared with the 2018 parliamentary elections — both in the period leading up to and on the polling day.

However, civilian casualties on September's voting day were higher than those on voting day in the 2014 presidential election, which went into a second round.

The report blamed more than 80% of all election-related civilian casualties on Taliban attacks, which it said were responsible for an even higher 95% of casualties on the day of polling.

Afghan military chopper crashes, killing 7

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Officials said an Afghan army helicopter crashed in northern Balkh Province, leaving at least seven army personnel, including the crew members, dead.

Mohammad Afzel Hadid, head

of the provincial council in Balkh, said Tuesday's late afternoon crash was the result of a technical problem on the outskirts of Mazar-e Sharif, the capital of Balkh.

Hadid said the wreck was not caused by enemy fire and that area has no insurgent activity.

Hanif Rezae, spokesman for the army corps in northern Balkh, also confirmed the crash of the chopper near the Hairatan area outside the city.

He said an investigation is going on to find out what caused the crash.

Navy vet lauds his successful penis transplant

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. Navy veteran who had a penis transplant eight years after a bomb in Afghanistan blew off the lower half of his body said the pioneering surgery has helped him feel back to normal again.

"This surgery was a way for me to overcome that little subconscious voice or whatever it was that would always keep me feeling different from everyone else," the former Navy corpsman, who asked not to be named, told the MIT Technology Review in a story published Monday. "It was one of the best decisions I ever made."

The veteran, referred to by the pseudonym Ray in the article, lost both legs, his penis, scrotum and a chunk of his abdominal wall when he stepped on a roadside bomb as he ran to help a soldier during a Taliban ambush in 2010. In March 2018, he became the fourth man ever and the first military veteran to have a penis transplant.

The injuries he sustained in Afghanistan were so severe, and the surgical procedure so complex, that it took 14 hours for a team of surgeons at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, led by Dr. Richard Redett, to transplant a donor's penis, scrotum and tissue from the thigh and lower abdomen to Ray, the story said.

The Navy veteran began re-gaining sensation in his groin area within six months, he told the MIT Technology Review. He

'It was one of the best decisions I ever made.'

"Ray"

Navy veteran who had a penis transplant

can urinate standing up and get erections but cannot become a biological father.

"Bombs from below used to be a death sentence, but better body armor and modern casualty care ensure that more wounded soldiers survive — and more of them with devastating genital-urinary trauma," the story said.

From October 2001, when the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan began, to August 2013, 1,367 male servicemembers sustained one or more injuries to their genitalia or urinary systems, it said, citing an article published in the *Journal of Urology* in 2017. Most of the servicemembers who have sustained severe groin injuries were under 30 and in the Army or Marine Corps, the journal article stated.

Ray told his story to let them know that some servicemembers have options, he said.

Since his transplant, he has become more confident and outgoing, friends and the surgeon who led his transplant said.

"He told me, which was the best news I could hear, that it feels normal," Redett said.

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Soldier shot in head during search for Bergdahl dies

New York Daily News

A soldier who was shot in the head in Afghanistan while searching for another soldier who had deserted his post and was captured by the Taliban died Saturday.

Master Sgt. Mark Allen, 46, of Loganville, Ga., was one of several soldiers who was wounded during a 19-day search for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who had walked away from his post in 2009.

"I'm heartbroken to let you all know that my husband passed away peacefully yesterday morning with his family by his side," wife Shannon Allen wrote in a Facebook post. "Over ten years ago, he sustained a severe head injury while serving in Afghanistan, which caused him lifelong

health problems. These past few months, he has faced some significant illnesses, and his body was finally ready to rest."

After he was released as part of a prisoner exchange in 2014, Bergdahl testified that he was tortured by his Taliban captors.

At his sentencing hearing in 2017, Shannon Allen testified about how Mark Allen's injuries had caused hardship for her family. "He is present, makes eye contact," she told the court. "He can laugh, smile, cry. That is the extent of the communication."

Bergdahl avoided prison time and received a dishonorable discharge from the U.S. Army after pleading guilty to desertion and misbehavior before the enemy.

Allen's funeral will be held Friday.

NATION

Fiona Hill: Bolton called Giuliani a 'hand grenade'

By MARY CLARE JALONICK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former national security adviser John Bolton was so alarmed by Rudy Giuliani's back-channel activities in Ukraine that he described President Donald Trump's personal lawyer as a "hand grenade who is going to blow everybody up," according to a former White House aide.

The aide, Fiona Hill, testified for more than 10 hours on Monday as part of the Democrats' impeachment probe into Trump's dealings with Ukraine. She detailed Bolton's concerns to lawmakers and told them that she had at least two meetings with National Security Council lawyer John Eisenberg about the matter at Bolton's request, according to a person familiar with the testimony who requested anonymity to discuss the confidential interview.

Those meetings took place in early July, weeks before a July 25 phone call between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in which Trump urged that Zelenskyy investigate political rival Joe Biden's family and Ukraine's own involvement in the 2016 presidential election.

A whistleblower complaint that call, later made public, prompted House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to launch the impeachment inquiry. Giuliani is Trump's personal lawyer and was heavily involved in the effort to pressure Ukraine on the investigations.

Hill, a top adviser on Russia, also referred to U.S. Ambassador Gordon Sondland and acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, the person said, telling the three committees leading the investigation that Bolton also told her he was not part of "whatever drug deal Sondland and Mulvaney are cooking up," an apparent reference to talks over Ukraine.

She quoted Bolton as saying in one conversation that Giuliani was "a hand grenade who's going to blow everybody up."

Sondland is expected to appear for a deposition under subpoena Thursday and will certainly be asked about those talks. He's expected to tell Congress that



Former White House adviser on Russia Fiona Hill leaves Capitol Hill in Washington on Monday after testifying before congressional lawmakers as part of the House impeachment inquiry.

a text message released earlier this month reassuring another envoy that there was no quid pro quo in their interactions with Ukraine was based solely on what Trump told him, according to a person familiar with his coming testimony.

The cache of text messages was provided by one of the inquiry's first witnesses, former Ukrainian envoy Kurt Volker, and detailed attempts by the diplomats to serve as intermediaries around the time Trump urged Zelenskyy to start the investigations into a company linked to Biden's son. Hill also told the investigators that she had strongly and repeatedly objected to the ouster earlier this year of former ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, according to the person familiar with the testimony. Yovanovitch testified to the impeachment investigators Friday that Trump pressured the State Department to fire her.

The interview is one of what could eventually become dozens of closed-door depositions in the impeachment probe. There are five more scheduled this week,



Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George Kent, right, arrives Tuesday to appear before a joint House Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Oversight and Reform for a deposition on Capitol Hill.

mostly with State Department officials, though it is unclear if they will all appear after Trump declared he wouldn't cooperate with the probe. On Tuesday, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George Kent was scheduled to testify.

While interviews have focused on the interactions with Ukraine, the probe could broaden as soon as next week to include inter-

views with White House budget officials who may be able to shed light on whether military aid was withheld from Ukraine as Trump and Giuliani pushed for the investigations.

The three committees leading the probe are seeking interviews next week with Russell Vought, acting director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Michael Duffey, another OMB of-

ficial who leads national security programs, according to a person familiar with those requests. That person wasn't authorized to discuss the invitations and requested anonymity.

The packed schedule of interviews comes as Democrats are methodically working to pin down the details of Trump's pressure on Zelenskyy. Once Democrats have completed the probe and followed any other threads it produces, they will use their findings to help determine whether to vote on articles of impeachment. Pelosi said she wants the committees to move "expeditiously."

Michael McKinley, a former top aide to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who resigned last week, is scheduled to testify Wednesday. McKinley, a career foreign service officer and Pompeo's de facto chief of staff, resigned Friday, ending a 37-year career.

The committees are also scheduled to talk to Ulrich Brechtshuhl, a State Department counselor on Thursday. On Friday, the lawmakers have scheduled an interview with Laura Cooper, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia. It is unclear if any of those officials will show up after Trump's vow of noncooperation.

Because of the Trump administration's edict, the Democrats have been subpoenaing witnesses as they arrived for their interviews — a move sometimes known as a "friendly" subpoena that could give the witnesses additional legal protection as they testify. Both Yovanovitch and Hill received subpoenas the mornings of their testimony.

One witness who may not be called before Congress is the still-anonymous government whistleblower who touched off the impeachment inquiry.

Top Democrats say testimony and evidence coming in from other witnesses, and even the Republican president himself, are backing up the whistleblower's account of what transpired during Trump's July 25 phone call with Zelenskyy. Lawmakers have grown deeply concerned about protecting the person from Trump's threats and may not wish to risk exposing the whistleblower's identity.

Hunter Biden denies doing anything wrong in Ukraine, China

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Joe Biden's son Hunter is rejecting accusations by President Donald Trump and his Republican allies that he did anything wrong in engaging in foreign work in Ukraine and China.

Hunter Biden also says he failed to take into account potential implications for his father's political career. The former vice president is a front-runner in the 2020 Democratic presidential contest.

In an ABC News interview that

aired Tuesday, Hunter Biden conceded he may have made a mistake "in the grand scheme of things" for failing to see the political repercussions for his father. But he adds, "Did I make a mistake based on some ethical lapse? Absolutely not."

Hunter Biden also acknowledged that he likely would not have been named to the board of a foreign company if his last name weren't Biden.

"I don't think there's a lot of things that would have happened in my life if my last name wasn't Biden," he said.

Trump and Republicans have targeted Hunter Biden for his work in Ukraine and China, making baseless claims of corruption.

In a July 25 phone call, Trump pressured Ukraine's leader to investigate the Bidens. Hunter Biden was on the board of an energy company in Ukraine. That phone call is the focus of a whistleblower complaint that triggered the formal House impeachment inquiry into Trump.

Hunter Biden said he never discussed his business dealings with his father.

His interview aired hours be-

fore the former vice president and other Democratic presidential candidates were set to appear at their fourth debate Tuesday night in Ohio.

Hunter Biden, who recently said he would step down from the board of directors of a Chinese-backed private equity firm, blamed his father's political opponents for creating a firestorm over his work.

"I gave a hook to some very unethical people to act in illegal ways to try to do some harm to my father. That's where I made the mistake," he said. "So I take

full responsibility for that. Did I do anything improper? No, not in any way. Not in any way whatsoever."

He added, "What I regret is not taking into account that there would be a Rudy Giuliani" — Trump's personal lawyer — "and a president of the United States that would be listening to this ridiculous conspiracy idea."

Trump has denied doing anything wrong and has defended his "shoot call with Ukraine's president, calling it "perfect" and "beautiful."

NATION



CRAIG RUTTLE/AP

Charlotte Charles, mother of Harry Dunn, who died after an August accident in Britain with Anne Sacoolas, wife of an American diplomat, speaks at a news conference Monday in New York. She and her husband, Bruce Charles, left, are urging Sacoolas to return to Britain.

Crash victim's parents urge US diplomat's wife to return to UK

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The parents of a motorcyclist killed in a traffic crash that involved an American diplomat's wife took their case directly to U.S. audiences Monday, holding a New York news conference at which they urged the woman to return to Britain.

The parents of Harry Dunn have reached out to American politicians and plan to be in Washington on Wednesday and Thursday in their quest to get the woman back to the U.K. "to present herself to police," family spokesman Radd Seiger said.

If that occurs, the family indicated, it would be willing to speak with her there.

Charlotte Charles, Dunn's mother, tearfully urged the diplomat's wife, Anne Sacoolas, to "do the right thing" and to "face us as a broken family," along with the U.K. legal system.

"She needs to set an example to her own children that you can't run away," Charles said.

Dunn, 19, was killed in August when his motorcycle collided with a car allegedly driven by Sacoolas outside a British air force base in

southern England used by the U.S. military.

Sacoolas left Britain shortly after, although police in the area where the collision happened released a statement saying she had previously told them she had no plans to depart. Her current whereabouts are uncertain.

The U.S. Embassy in London said any question of waiving the immunity given to diplomats and their families would be carefully considered but that it was rare to have that happen.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has urged Sacoolas to return to the U.K. and said he doesn't think it's right to "use the process of diplomatic immunity for this type of purpose."

President Donald Trump last week called what happened "a terrible accident" and said his administration would seek to speak with the driver "and see what we can come up with."

Johnson's office said the prime minister spoke with Trump and "urged the president to reconsider the U.S. position, so the individual involved can return to the U.K., cooperate with police and allow Harry's family to receive justice."

US, China trade truce leaves the tough issues for later

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump heralded a breakthrough in U.S.-China trade talks, and markets rallied in relief over a deescalation in tensions between the world's two biggest economies.

But closer inspection suggests there isn't much substance, at least not yet, to the temporary truce Trump announced Friday at the White House after the U.S. and China wrapped up their 13th round of trade talks.

Trump agreed to suspend a tariff increase scheduled for Tuesday on \$250 billion worth of Chinese

imports. And the president said the Chinese agreed to buy \$40 billion to \$50 billion in U.S. farm products.

But nothing's on paper and details are scarce. China's state-run media hasn't even mentioned the promise to buy all those soybeans and other agricultural products.

And the negotiators have delayed dealing with the toughest issues for future talks. Meanwhile, the U.S. is still scheduled to target another \$160 billion in Chinese goods Dec. 15, a move that would extend Trump's tariffs to virtually everything China ships to the United States.

#MeToo founder launches new effort aimed at voters

By ERIN HAINES

Associated Press

The founder of #MeToo is using the second anniversary of the movement to launch a new effort intended to mobilize voters heading into the 2020 election.

The new hashtag #MeTooVoter was unveiled Tuesday, the same day as the fourth Democratic presidential debate, and reflects a frustration among activists that issues of sexual violence and harassment have largely been absent from the debate stage and campaign trail.

"You can't have 12 million people respond to a hashtag in this country and they not be constituents, taxpayers and voters," #MeToo founder Tarana Burke said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We need these candidates to see us as a power base. So many people engage with survivors from a place of pity."

A record number of women are running in the 2020 Democratic field, and women will be a pivotal bloc in both the primary and the general election. Still, women are too often treated like a special interest group rather than the majority of the American electorate, said Ai-jen Poo, director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance, which is partnering with #MeToo on voter education, mobilization and turnout efforts over the next year.

"The whole point of #MeTooVoter is to say that survivors are a huge political force and incredibly motivated in this moment," Poo said.

Burke said that nearly a year into the Democratic primary, none of the 2020 hopefuls has spoken to her as they have shaped their presidential platforms. She hopes #MeTooVoter will prompt debate moderators to ask a question about sexual violence at the next debate, but didn't expect the topic to come up Tuesday.

Whether #MeToo makes the debate stage or not, Burke said she is considering a town hall



PAUL SANCTA/AP

Tarana Burke, founder of the #MeToo campaign, used the second anniversary of the movement to launch a new effort aimed at voters. — #MeTooVoter.

'You can't have 12 million people respond to a hashtag in this country and they not be constituents, taxpayers and voters. We need these candidates to see us as a power base.'

Tarana Burke

#MeToo founder

around the issue to hear more fully from candidates about their stances.

It was on the one-year anniversary of when #MeToo became a viral hashtag that Burke was still reeling from the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, whose nomination hearing focused largely on allegations of sexual assault when he was a teenager.

The hearing, watched by millions and seen as a major turning point in the MeToo movement, was seen by some women as a setback to efforts to hold men accountable for sexual violence. For Burke, the moment was a turning point.

"It was the first time we saw survivors en masse come in and put their bodies on the line for

this issue," said Burke. "It was the moment I realized we had to form as an organization. People are willing to stand up, march, talk, come out in the rain. People are ready for this moment."

Supermajority co-founder Cecile Richards said the issue of sexual violence is something the organization, which is a #MeTooVoter partner, has identified as an election year priority among women.

"Any candidate who wants the support of women, I hope understands the importance of speaking to the issues that are on the minds of millions of voters in this country," Richards said. "Women don't feel safe in America. There's been very little conversation about this, and that's unacceptable."

tion, and there's a lot of work to be done on that front."

Muchin said he expected that he and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer will meet with China's lead negotiator, Vice Premier Liu He, before a November Asia-Pacific summit in Chile. At that gathering, Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping could officially sign off on a phase one agreement.

The two countries are deadlocked primarily over U.S. allegations that China deploys predatory tactics — including outright theft — in a sharp-elbowed drive to become the global leader in robotics,

self-driving cars and other advanced technology.

Beijing has been reluctant to make the kind of substantive policy reforms that would satisfy the Trump administration. Doing so would likely require scaling back China's aspirations for technological supremacy, which it sees as crucial to its prosperity.

"I don't think China is willing to fundamentally change its system," said David Dollar, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a former official at the World Bank and U.S. Treasury.

Resolving those issues is largely being pushed to future talks.

NATION

Texas officer resigns, is charged in shooting

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — A white former Fort Worth police officer being held in jail on a murder charge after shooting a black woman through a window of her home, and the department told a jury community that investigators would ensure “no stone is left unturned” in the search for answers.

Aaron Dean, 34, was jailed Monday night on \$200,000 bond after being charged with murder in a shooting that began with a call about an open front door. Earlier in the day he resigned from the force, and the police chief said he would have been fired if he hadn't.

Police bodycam video showed Dean approaching the door of the home where Atatiana Jefferson, 28, was caring for her 8-year-old nephew early Saturday. He then walked around the side of the house, pushed through a gate into the fenced-off backyard and fired through the glass a split-second after shouting at Jefferson to show her hands.

Dean was not heard identifying himself as police on the video, and Interim Police Chief Ed Kraus said there was no sign Dean or the other officer who responded even knocked on the front door.

“Nobody looked at this video and said that there's any doubt that this officer acted inappropriately,” Kraus said.

Sgt. Chris Daniels read a statement Monday night after Dean's arrest in which he pledged that the department's major case and internal affairs units were working “around the clock” for justice in the case. Earlier in the day, Jefferson's family had demanded that Dean, a member of the force for 1½ years, be fired and arrested.

Police went to Jefferson's home about



JEFFERSON FAMILY/AP

The then-police officer who shot and killed Atatiana Jefferson, above, while responding to a call in Fort Worth, Texas, is facing a murder charge in the case.

2:25 a.m. after a neighbor called a non-emergency line to report a door ajar. In a statement over the weekend, the department said officers saw someone near a window inside the home and that one of them drew his gun and fired after “perceiving a threat.”

Jefferson was staying up late playing video games with her nephew when she was killed, according to the family's attorney.

The video included images of a gun inside a bedroom. Kraus said he did not know whether Jefferson was holding the weapon. But he said the fact she had a gun shouldn't be considered unusual in Texas.

Kraus said that, in hindsight, releasing the images of the weapon was “a bad thing to do.”

Mayor Betsy Price called the gun “irrelevant.”

Calif. regulator blasts utility on power plans

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — California's top utility regulator blasted Pacific Gas and Electric on Monday for what she called “failures in execution” during the largest planned power outage in state history to avoid wildfires that she said “created an unacceptable situation that should never be repeated.”

The agency ordered a series of corrective actions, including a goal of restoring power within 12 hours, not the utility's current 48-hour goal.

“The scope, scale, complexity, and overall impact to people's lives, businesses, and the economy of this action cannot be understated,” California Public Utilities Commission President Marybel Batjer wrote in a letter to PG&E CEO Bill Johnson.

PG&E last week took the unprecedented step of cutting power to more than 700,000 customers, affecting an estimated 2.1 million Californians. The company said it did it because of dangerous wind forecasts but acknowledged that its execution was poor.

Its website frequently crashed, and many people said they did not receive enough warning that the power was going out.

“We were not adequately prepared,” Johnson said last week.

PG&E said in a statement Monday that employees found more than 100 spots where parts of its systems were damaged during the strong winds, including downed power lines and places where trees had hit the lines. Repairs were either completed or underway at those sites.

“It is possible that any one of these instances could have been a potential source

of ignition” for a wildfire if the outage hadn't taken effect, the statement said.

The utility didn't specifically comment on the regulatory sanctions.

In addition to restoring power faster, the PUC said the utility must work harder to avoid such large-scale outages, develop better ways to communicate with the public and local officials, get a better system for distributing outage maps and work with emergency personnel to ensure PG&E staff are sufficiently trained.

She ordered the utility to perform an audit of its performance during the outages that began Wednesday, saying the utility clearly did not adopt many of the recommendations state officials have made since utilities was granted the authority to begin pre-emptive power shutoffs last year. The review is due by Thursday, and she ordered several PG&E executives to appear at an emergency PUC hearing Friday.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has also criticized PG&E for its performance during the outage, blaming what he called decades of mismanagement, underinvestment and lousy communication with the public. On Monday the Democratic governor urged the utility to compensate affected customers with a bill credit or rebate worth \$100 for residential customers or \$250 for small businesses. He said the shutoffs affected too many customers for too long, and it is clear PG&E implemented them “with asounding neglect and lack of preparation.”

Johnson, the PG&E CEO, responded in writing to Newsom's letter Monday, noting that no fires occurred during the power shut-off. He said he welcomes the PUC review.

Split verdict for former Ga. officer who shot unarmed, naked man

By KATE BRUMBACK

Associated Press

DECATUR, Ga. — A former Georgia police officer who fatally shot an unarmed, naked man was found not guilty of murder Monday but was convicted of aggravated assault and other charges that could send him to prison for more than 30 years.

Robert “Chip” Olsen's face turned red and he squeezed his eyes shut tightly as the verdict was read. His wife, Kathy Olsen, began sobbing and had to be led from the courtroom.

DeKalb County Superior Court Judge LaTisha Dear Jackson set bond for Olsen at \$80,000, ordered him to wear an ankle monitor and imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew in effect until his sentencing Nov. 1.

Olsen, now 57, was a DeKalb County police officer in March 2015 when he responded to a call of a naked man behaving erratically outside an Atlanta-area apartment complex. Shortly after arriving, he fatally shot Anthony Hill, a U.S. Air Force veteran who had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder. A grand jury indicted Olsen nearly a year after the shooting. Olsen is white and Hill, 26, was black.

Hill's parents objected to Olsen being released on bond while he awaits sentencing. “It's been four years that we've been waiting for this,” said his mother, Carolyn Giummo. “My son is no longer here. ... I just feel like it's time now.”

In addition to aggravated assault, Olsen was convicted of two counts of violating his oath of office and one count of making a false statement. The assault charge carries a maximum sentence of 20 years; each of the other three counts carries a sentence of up to five years.

The jury acquitted Olsen on two counts of felony murder, charges that would have carried a mandatory sentence of life in prison. A felony murder charge doesn't imply intent to kill but rather that a death occurred as a person was committing another felony, in this case aggravated assault or violation of his oath.

DeKalb County District Attorney Sherry Boston, whose office prosecuted the case, said she appreciated the time the jurors spent and respected their verdict.

“I think all of you know that these cases are very difficult, not just here in Georgia but across the United States,” Boston told reporters.

“It is very difficult to prosecute a police officer for murder under these circumstances.”

One of the jurors, who asked that his name not be used because he didn't want to be linked to the high-profile case, said the fact that Olsen was a police officer made the deliberations difficult, noting that about half the jurors believed Olsen was acting in self-defense.

By the time they reached a verdict, jurors were pretty evenly split — largely along racial lines — between those who wanted



ALYSSA POINTER, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

Kathy Olsen, wife of Robert “Chip” Olsen, is consoled as the verdict for her husband's trial is read in Decatur, Ga., on Monday. The former police officer who fatally shot a naked man was found not guilty of murder but was convicted of other charges.

to convict Olsen of murder and those who didn't, with most white jurors wanting to acquit, he said.

Ultimately, the juror said, he was afraid they wouldn't be able to reach a unanimous verdict, the case would end up in a mistrial and a subsequent jury wouldn't convict on any of the counts. So he and some of the other

ers agreed to acquit on the murder charges as long as they reached a guilty verdict on the aggravated assault charge.

“I felt good about it knowing that I got some justice out of it,” he said.

Attorneys for Olsen didn't immediately comment and didn't respond to an email seeking comment on the verdict.

NATION

Sanders details plan to 'end corporate greed'

By WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bernie Sanders has released a major proposal to “end corporate greed and corruption” by requiring large companies to give ownership stakes to their workers. The proposal also would ensure that more of the nation’s most profitable firms pay more in federal taxes and government authorities do more to target monopolies and hard mergers that may harm consumers.

The senator has been recuperating at his Vermont home for nearly two weeks since having a heart attack while campaigning in Las Vegas, but he traveled to Ohio for Tuesday night’s Democratic presidential debate.

Sanders spoke to The Associated Press about his plan to overhaul an “obviously broken” and “totally absurd” corporate tax system, appointing an attorney general who would break up large monopolies and giving workers 20% of shares in their companies and 45% of the seats on their corporate boards. He called the ownership stake com-

ponent “probably the more radical” piece of his proposal.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren has obviously been quite outspoken on breaking up large, powerful corporations, as well as making corporate governing boards more accountable to workers. How does this plan set you apart from what she’s been talking about?

I’ll let Sen. Warren speak for herself. But this is an issue that we have been working on for my entire political life. In fact, I can remember like it was yesterday having a meeting in city hall in Burlington, Vt., where hundreds of people came out to talk about worker control and worker empowerment on the job. And, in fact, Vermont has been a leader — one of the leaders in the country — in doing just that.

So you’re seeing a number of companies in Vermont — which are doing very well, doing well economically, and I think the morale of their employees is very, very high — where workers sit and help make the decisions for their companies. So this is an issue that I have been involved in

my whole life. We’ve introduced several major pieces of legislation to help. You have a lot of companies out there, medium-size companies started by somebody who is about to retire, and, everything being equal, would like to give ownership to his or her employees but doesn’t have the tax incentives to be able to do that.

We’ve filed legislation which would do that. And, the other area is, we brought money into the state of Vermont which educates employers and workers about how they can start employer-employee-owned companies.

So it’s something that we’ve been working on for a long, long time. But the issue here is to empower working people so they walk into a job, they don’t feel like they’re a cog in a machine but that they have some stake in it as well. That their decisions will count and, when you do that, I think that what the record will show — and what I think you see in companies all over this country that are worker-owned — is absenteeism goes down, worker productivity goes up, people feel better about their jobs because they have some say in it.

And I think that’s enormously important. So, you add all these things together, what we’re saying to a very small number of people in the 1% is that you cannot continue to control this economy with the kind of greed and corruption that you have for so many decades, and we’re going to bring about some fundamental change.”

Because you’ve been talking about these issues for years, is perhaps the best way to describe this is that you’re putting specificity behind how you would accomplish them?

“We’re getting into the nitty gritty and the details of what has to be done with some specificity. The broad concept of how you create a democratic society in which working people have more control over their lives is a theme that I have obviously been working on and believed throughout my entire career. But this provides some of the very specific details of how we can go forward, and it will be a major transformation of the economy in the sense of empowering working people to have control over their own lives,

over their own jobs and not just be cogs in a machine, which is, sadly enough, too often the case.”

Are there parts of this you can do without Congress since, even if you were to win the presidency, it’s hard to see this being fully approved?

Obviously, as is the case in many, many other issues, we will look at what option we have through executive action to incorporate some of these. But I should also tell you that on some ideas with regard to worker control, there has, interestingly enough, been historically — I can’t tell you exactly what the case is today — but there has been conservative support, and that’s a fact. I should also tell you that, right now, if you look around this country, what you’re seeing is labor militancy.

You’re seeing workers stand up, going out on strike with much more frequency than used to be the case, because I think people are sick and tired of the economic and political status quo and tired of working longer hours for lower wages and seeing all of the new wealth going to the top 1%.

Ohio losing status as a swing state

By JULIE CARR SMYTH

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Chris Gagin says he hasn’t changed much politically, even as so much around him has.

The attorney from rural Belmont County, Ohio, became a Republican in 2013 after Democrats embraced environmental policies that he believed were detrimental to the area’s coal mining and fracking industries. As an anti-abortion rights, pro-gun conservative, he felt unwelcome.

“Conservative Democrats have become all but extinct,” said Gagin, who served for a time as county Republican chairman. He’s among many former Democrats in blue-collar Ohio who voted for Donald Trump in 2016 and for an all-GOP statewide ticket last year. Those ballots helped turn large swaths of territory along the Ohio River — places that supported Democrats Bill Clinton and Barack Obama — from blue to bright red.

As Democrats brought their next primary debate to Ohio on Tuesday, they were grappling with whether the new Republican dominance in those industrial and rural pockets has pushed Ohio out of their reach.

Some Democratic presidential campaigns are contemplating once unheard-of White House victory scenarios that leave out Ohio. The storied swing state — a



TONY DEJAK/AP

A supporter holds up a sign as President Donald Trump speaks at the Coviell Centre in Youngstown, Ohio, in July 2017. Ohio’s trend toward voting Republican has changed its status as a swing state.

place that sided with the winning presidential candidate in all but one election since 1944 — seems likely to be eclipsed by Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania in next year’s election.

“Ohio isn’t at the center of the political universe as it used to be,” said Kyle Kondik, an elections analyst at the University of Virginia Center for Politics.

At this same time during the last presidential campaign, in October 2015, presidential campaigning in Ohio was so vigorous there were fears it was drowning out that year’s elections. A group concerned about one of that year’s ballot issues, the American Policy Roundtable, even bought an online ad reminding voters the presidential election was still a year away. The run-up to the 2020 election has been quieter, with Ohio seeing only a handful of notable campaign events since spring.

Trump won Ohio in 2016 by 8 percentage points — a larger margin than any winner since George H.W. Bush in 1988. While Democrats surged in many other swing states in 2018, they lost every statewide race in Ohio but one.

Democratic presidential candidates were to debate Tuesday in Westerville, a suburb outside Columbus replete with the college-educated women and young voters who Democrats see as representing the party’s best prospects of an Ohio comeback, along with minorities.

“I think it’s totally winnable,” said Democratic political consultant Aaron Pickrel, an Ohio campaign director and adviser to Obama’s successful 2008 and 2012 campaigns. Any victory will depend on finding the right balance of supporters in urban, suburban, rural and former industrial communities, he said.

GOP endorsement eludes indicted Calif. lawmaker

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — In a sign of a turbulent campaign to come, indicted U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter failed to win the endorsement Monday of his local Republican Party after arguing that he is the best candidate for the job despite his approaching federal trial.

Hunter faced significant odds of winning the two-thirds support he needed for the nod from the San Diego Republican Party, with several other GOP candidates dividing the vote, including former Rep. Darrell Issa. But it’s nonetheless an unwelcome result for a campaign widely seen as vulnerable.

In remarks at a party forum in San Diego that were at turns fiery and defiant, the Southern California congressman suggested his rival candidates should look elsewhere for political opportunities.

“I’ve got this seat,” Hunter said, with three other candidates seated beside him. “I’ve won this seat in the worst of times. I’m still fighting for you.” he said.

The party did not release the vote tallies for each candidate.

The federal charges against the 42-year-old lawmaker came up only glancingly throughout the hourlong forum, but they are an overarching issue in a contest in which the Republican candidates largely agree on immigration, opposition to abortion, defense of the Second Amendment and support for President Donald Trump.

His trial is scheduled to begin in January. Hunter and his wife were charged with mispending more than \$200,000 in campaign funds on vacations, bar tabs and other personal expenses.

Margaret Hunter, who served as the congressman’s campaign chairwoman, later pleaded guilty to one count of corruption and agreed to testify against her husband.

Prosecutors have also charged that Duncan Hunter used campaign money to finance romantic flings with lobbyists and congressional aides.

Hunter has pleaded not guilty and has called the charges a politically motivated attempt to drive him from office.

Hunter referred to the charges in his initial statement at the forum, while appearing to depict Issa and radio personality Carl DeMaio as interlopers unfamiliar with his district.

Hunter noted that he carried the Republican-leaning 50th District in 2018 even after being charged in a year when Democrats seized a string of Republican-held congressional seats in the state in a rout.

“I’m not going to move somewhere and fight for the easy seat,” Hunter said in what appeared to be another dig at his challengers.



Hunter

NATION

Reporter says NBC lacked enthusiasm for Weinstein story

By DAVID BAUDER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — In reporter Ronan Farrow's account of his contentious divorce from NBC News, the more evidence he gathered on Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein's alleged sexual misconduct, the less enthusiastic his bosses seemed to be.

NBC's decision to let Farrow take his work to *The New Yorker* magazine is widely regarded as one of the biggest mistakes in journalism in the past few years.

The detailed stories on Weinstein published by *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times* in 2017 shared a Pulitzer Prize and are credited with igniting the #MeToo movement.

"For six months, the only support I'd had was (NBC News President) Noah Oppenheim scrunching his nose and holding journalism at arm's length, afraid it might get on him," Farrow wrote.

His former employers call Farrow's book, "Catch and Kill," a smear. It was published Tuesday.

NBC remains adamant that its hand was forced by Farrow's enthusiasm for a story that — at the time he was working there — didn't meet its standards.

"Farrow's effort to defame NBC News is clearly motivated not by a pursuit of truth, but an axe to grind," NBC News President Noah Oppenheim wrote in a detailed memo to NBC News staff Monday. "It is built on a series of distortions, confused timelines and outright inaccuracies."

Two years later, the reasons why NBC let Farrow and his explosive reporting leave are murky. Farrow suggests fear of Weinstein, fear of having Matt Lauer's secrets exposed, journalistic timidity or simple misjudgment all may play a role. Farrow's former producer, Rich McHugh, wrote in *Vanity Fair* that NBC abdicated its responsibility to relentlessly pursue and tell the truth.

One thing they do agree on: It was Oppenheim's idea in the first place, when he pointed out a tweet by actress Rose McGowan about being abused by an unnamed figure in the movie business.

Farrow, a former MSNBC host who segued into investigative journalism at NBC, scored an interview with McGowan, where she told her story but didn't name Weinstein on camera. Off-camera, she said it

was him. (Weinstein, who faces a sexual assault trial in New York in January regarding allegations not relating to McGowan, has denied any criminal wrongdoing.) Farrow and McHugh pursued other sources and, they soon learned, so was *The Times*.

Yet he wrote about hurdles placed in his way that made him question NBC's desire to do the story.

Eventually, the reporting team said they kept working on the story despite a lack of enthusiasm from above, with McHugh quickly switching a side screen on his computer to hide what he was doing when a supervisor was near.

As the story moved along, NBC said it asked Farrow to prepare a script and assigned some of its top producers to vet the material.

The verdict was unanimous: Farrow needed more proof to sustain the claim that Weinstein was a sexual predator, Oppenheim said in an interview Monday.

"He refused to accept that decision," Oppenheim said. "He was frustrated by the standards we were upholding."

The book details aggressive efforts by Weinstein to stop the story through the use of lawyers, public relations experts and a shadowy security firm, along with multiple calls to NBC executives.

After word got out that Farrow had left NBC, he reports that the mogul bragged to others that he got the network to "kill" the story.

Weinstein played no role in NBC's decision to hold off on what Farrow had reported, Oppenheim said.

A more sinister theory for NBC's inaction revolved around Matt Lauer, the "Today" show host who was fired in November 2017 for "inappropriate sexual contact" with a fellow employee. That colleague told Farrow that Lauer raped her in a Sochi hotel room in 2014; Lauer described the sex as consensual.

Only one person from NBC's hierarchy approached Farrow after *The New Yorker* piece ran to express regrets about what had happened, Farrow wrote. It was Brian Robert, chairman of NBC's parent company Comcast.

The bad blood between Farrow and NBC News has led to a laundry list of he said-he said claims. They don't even agree on whose idea it was to take the reporting elsewhere.

That is, ultimately, the decision that most befuddled people who weren't directly involved. If the story wasn't ready, why didn't NBC just let Farrow and McHugh keep working on it?

Oppenheim said NBC agreed to let Farrow leave because their working relationship had irrevocably broken down.



NESTOR TRUILLIO, LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY/AP

Barrels of radioactive waste are loaded in April for transport to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant at the Radioactive Assay Nondestructive Testing facility in Los Alamos, N.M. U.S. officials and critics disagree over where radioactive materials should be stored and how to safely move them.

US officials, critics at odds over moving, storing nuclear waste

By SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — A fight is raging in courts and Congress over where radioactive materials should be stored and how to safely get the dangerous remnants of decades of bomb-making and power generation to a permanent resting place.

Nationwide, spent fuel rods lie in temporary cooling ponds at commercial nuclear power reactors without a permanent storage destination. Plutonium also awaits processing for nuclear weapons of war.

As federal officials insist they can move tons of lethal material without disaster, critics ask how much risk is acceptable and how far technology has come to safely ship nuclear waste.

"The question is: 'Are the regulations for safety and security adequate?'" said Edwin Lyman, head of the nuclear safety project at the Union of Concerned Scientists. "My judgment is no. They are antiquated. They need at least a fresh look."

Watchdogs like Lyman want the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which regulates the commercial nuclear industry, to require transport containers to be tested to the point nuclear waste would be released — in a fire, catastrophic railroad or truck crash, plunge into water or by tampering, sabotage or terrorism.

"What isn't clear is: 'What are the conditions under which the package would fail?'" said Lyman, who has studied hazardous shipments for 25 years.

Energy Department officials and others say technological advances over 25 years have pro-



JOHN LOCHER/AP

People leave the south portal of Yucca Mountain during a congressional tour near Mercury, Nev., in 2018. Energy Secretary Rick Perry has pressured Congress to jump-start the Yucca Mountain project, which was designed to store nuclear waste.

duced more robust transport canisters, new communication systems to track shipments and their armed escorts in real time, and better computer models to examine accident scenarios.

Upgrades in containers and communication between armed escorts and command posts alleviated many past concerns about the security and safety of shipments, said Frank Rusco, U.S. Government Accountability Office environment and natural resources chief.

The Energy Department acknowledges the public has concerns regardless of the safety measures.

Deputy Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette wrote in a July memo that he and Secretary Rick Perry were increasingly concerned about safe and secure packaging, the shipping of waste "and the impact that this matter could have

on the safety of our workers, the public and the environment."

The memo came during fights in court over a secret federal shipment of weapons-grade plutonium from South Carolina to Nevada last year and in Congress over renewed Trump administration efforts to build a dump for the nation's most dangerous radioactive waste 90 miles from Las Vegas.

With the GAO estimating that there's enough high-level nuclear waste awaiting disposal in the U.S. to fill a football field 65 feet deep, Perry pressed Congress to jump-start the Yucca Mountain project.

"We have to find a solution," Perry said earlier this year, holding a map of states storing spent nuclear fuel. "Thirty-nine states as repositories is not an appropriate solution."

NATION

Who plays kazoo at the zoo? Apes do

Researchers give instrument to animals as part of study on human speech development

By ADRIANO REIS E LAMEIRA
Special to The Washington Post

A kazoo might seem a world away from the spoken word. But our ability to produce its buzzing, Donald Duck-like sound at will was key in us ever developing the ability to speak at all.

While our capacity for speech is unique, my colleague Robert Shumaker and I have used the novelty instrument to show that great apes aren't far behind.

Speech is one of the defining marks of humankind. It is the interface of our social and societal relationships, and the baton through which individuals and generations pass information and knowledge from one to the other. Yet, how our species — and our species alone — developed such a powerful method of communication remains unclear.

Perhaps chief among the necessary tools for speech is voice control. That is, the uniquely advanced ability to engage our vocal folds to produce sounds at will, as opposed to the reflexive screams and cries that other animals produce as automatic responses to changes in their environment and physiology.

Scientists long thought that the capacity of great apes to control their voice was just as limited as that of their fellow mammals. But recent evidence suggests that these views were misguided.

For instance, great apes can mimic the rhythm of speech, producing babbling vocalizations that could easily be confused with those of a Disney cartoon

character. They can also match the pitch of a human voice. Such feats would be impossible if great apes could not deploy and use their voice on command in similar ways to us.

To find out more about those abilities, we gave captive orangutans at the Indianapolis Zoo the opportunity to play a membranophone — a class of musical instrument that includes the kazoo.

Kazoos and other membranophones are unique in that despite their resemblance to a flute or a whistle, merely blowing a constant stream of air into them produces no sound. To activate the instrument, the player must hum or talk into the kazoo. This is because it is the burst of air produced by our vocal folds opening and closing when we vocalize that make the membrane of the instrument vibrate, and the instrument play.

In our study, some of the orangutans activated the kazoo within minutes, producing sounds of varying pitches and durations in response to kazoo demonstrations by the human experimenters. The speed with which these orangutans changed the quality of their voices shows that they were producing the sounds at will, rather than through training — which, as any dog trainer will reassert, requires months of reflex building and conditioning.

These findings show that orangutan voice control lags not far behind that of humans. They confirm that the vocal abilities of great apes have been largely



LINDA DAVIDSON/The Washington Post

In a study of speech and voice control involving captive orangutans at the Indianapolis Zoo, some of the apes activated kazoos within minutes, producing sounds of varying pitches and durations.

underestimated.

That only some of the orangutans managed to play the kazoo shows us that the capacity and/or motivation to demonstrate vocal control differs between individuals. So one great ape can never be representative of the vocal abilities of a whole species.

To understand the vocal control of apes further, scientists should develop tests tailored to match each individual ape's limitations and drive. That won't be a surprise to parents, teachers and linguistic therapists, who know that children develop speech at different rates and manners despite sharing virtually the same environment.

Although precise tests such as these are possible only in controlled settings with voluntary participation from captive individuals, evidence suggests that wild orangutans also use vocal control in their natural environment to communicate and pass information between individuals

and generations.

For example, wild orangutans can modify their alarm calls with hands and leaves to make them sound bigger, depending on how dangerous the predator they encounter is. Wild chimpanzees are more likely to produce snake alarm calls when group members are unaware of the threat and selectively inform high-ranking group members that food is available — both indicators of intentional control of vocalizations.

More recently, I showed that wild orangutan mothers delay signaling alarm calls in response to predators until there is no danger, informing their infants of the danger that just passed through the forest floor below. Such an ability indicates not only some degree of vocal control, but also another prerequisite for speech — the ability to communicate about the past.

Understanding the extent to which great apes can “speak” offers clues as to how and when

the various skills required for full-blown speech emerged in our evolutionary lineage. Scientists previously thought that great apes didn't have the required brain circuitry. Now, it seems that they do. The question now is why our species used the past few million years to hone these neural capabilities, but our close cousins didn't — or weren't able to.

Having spent much time around orangutans, I'm certain that they possess a great many more skills and abilities than current science gives them credit for. They are truly fascinating and intelligent creatures, and we must make every effort to conserve and protect them and their habitat — not just to better understand our place in the natural world, but as a mark of respect for theirs.

Lameira is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Warwick in England. This report was originally published on theconversation.com.

Smartphone users' typing speeds surprise researchers

By MARIE C. BACA
The Washington Post

Tapping out a message with a finger or two on a smartphone is catching up to the speed of typing on a traditional keyboard.

Two-thumb mobile typists generated an average of about 38 words per minute, according to what researchers describe as the largest experiment to date on mobile typing. That's still a quarter less than the 51.56 word-per-minute average in physical-keyboard users, but the gap isn't as big as expected, researchers said, adding that they were “amazed” by the results.

Mobile typists who use auto-correct are faster than those who use word-prediction tools, according to a study that looked at 37,000 volunteers tested by researchers at Finland's Aalto University, the University of Cambridge and ETH Zurich.

Many children grow up with some kind of school training to learn how to type — 10 fingers on the keyboard, index fingers on the F and J keys, looking at the paper or the screen instead of the keys.

Earlier devices such as the BlackBerry promoted typing on miniature keyboards too.

Now, most smartphone users type on their devices with one or two thumbs. Some also type with a single index finger.

As the smartphone has claimed a bigger and bigger portion of our communications, many educators and researchers have posed questions about the longer-term effects the move to typing on a digital keyboard may have — particularly on younger generations.

The better-than-expected results surprised researchers because typing on a smartphone “is a type of motor skill that people learn on their own with no formal

training, which is very unlike typing on physical keyboards,” study co-author Antti Oulasvirta said in a news release.

In fact, 10- to 19-year-olds type about 10 wpm faster than people in their 40s do, regardless of whether the keyboard was on a smartphone or a computer. The best typists could do more than 80 wpm.

The study's authors predict that the typing gap may close at some point as the population becomes less skilled with physical keyboards and as mobile typing technology improves.

Still, there are some trade-offs when it comes to typing on a smartphone. Those participating in the study left more errors uncorrected, something that also resulted in less backspacing.

“A possible explanation is the higher interaction cost of correcting mistakes on mobile

devices and the limited text editing methods,” according to the researchers.

The researchers collected the typing data from thousands of individuals using an online typing test. The test asked participants to transcribe a series of sentences and recorded their keystrokes, errors, speed and other metrics.

It also asked them to self-report their demographic data, as well as information about how they type and the sort of keyboard they used to complete the test.

Smartphones may have some of the ergonomic risks associated with their more traditional counterparts, professors say.

Smartphone usage can lead to neck, shoulder and grip issues, said Brydley Chase, an associate professor of industrial and systems engineering at the University of San Diego.



RANDALL BENTON/AP

A new study found that smartphone users are catching up to traditional keyboard users in words per minute speed.

WORLD

EU: Brexit deal still possible if UK acts now

By **RAF CASERT**
Associated Press

LUXEMBOURG — A Brexit divorce deal is still possible ahead of Thursday's European Union summit but the British government needs to move ahead with more compromises to seal an agreement, the bloc said Tuesday.

Even though many open questions remain, diplomats made it clear that both sides were for the first time within touching distance since an earlier EU-U.K. Brexit withdrawal plan fell apart in the British House of Commons in March.

EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said at a meeting of EU ministers that the main challenge now is to turn the new British proposals on the complex Irish border issue into something binding. EU member Ireland has a land border with the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and both want to keep

that border invisible, for economic and peace treaty reasons. But once Britain leaves the bloc, that Irish border turns into an external EU border that the bloc wants to keep secure.

Barnier said it's "high time to turn good intentions into a legal text." He wants a clear answer by Wednesday morning to tell EU capitals what should be decided once the bloc's two-day summit kicks off on Thursday.

"Even if an agreement will be difficult — more and more difficult, we think — it is still possible this week," Barnier said.

To further boost the momentum, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson called French President Emmanuel Macron to discuss where more movement could be found.

Britain is scheduled to leave the EU on Oct. 31, and the EU summit this week was long considered one of the last possible



European Union chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier, right, speaks with Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney, left, during a meeting of EU General Affairs ministers in Luxembourg on Tuesday.

VIRGINIA MAYO/AP

chances to approve a divorce agreement to accommodate that deadline. Johnson insists his

country will leave at the end of the month with or without a divorce deal, but British lawmakers

have been adamant on avoiding a no-deal Brexit.

Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney, who had a long, intense talk with Barnier early Tuesday, said the EU believes "this is difficult, but it is doable." He said Barnier addressed EU ministers and "did point to progress in the last number of days where the gaps have been narrowed."

A senior German official wouldn't rule out a Brexit agreement in principle by Wednesday afternoon but stressed the importance of time-consuming specifications.

"The basis for our decisions are legal texts in which the details are settled," the official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity in line with department rules, said in Berlin. "But there has been progress, and as always in these negotiations the biggest progress happens over the final meters."

Spain targets online group behind protest

By **ARITZ PARRA**
Associated Press

MADRID — New disruptions to Catalonia's transportation network on Tuesday followed a night of clashes between activists and police over the conviction of separatist leaders as Spanish authorities announced an investigation into the group organizing the protests.

Authorities said three people were arrested and more than 170 others injured, including about 40 police officers, during the clashes well into the early hours of Tuesday between angry protesters and riot police at Barcelona's international airport and elsewhere across the northeastern Spanish region.

Thousands of passengers were stranded at the airport, with many forced to walk with their luggage on highways and across fields.

The protesters were responding to an online campaign by Tsunami Democratic, a loose, leaderless grassroots group that uses encrypted messaging apps to call for peaceful disobedience.

Spain's caretaker interior minister, Fernando Grande-Marlaska, said authorities were investigating the group.

In a landmark ruling Monday, Spain's Supreme Court acquitted the Catalan politicians and activists of the more serious crime of rebellion for pushing ahead with a banned referendum on Oct. 1, 2017, and declaring independence based on its results. But judges found nine of them guilty of sedition and handed down prison terms of nine to 13 years. Four of them were additionally convicted of misuse of public funds and three were fined for disobedience.

The court also barred all of them from holding public office.



Police charge against demonstrators during clashes outside El Prat airport in Barcelona, Spain, on Monday after the Supreme Court sentenced 12 prominent Catalan separatists to lengthy prison terms for their roles in a 2017 push for the wealthy Spanish region's independence.

EMILIO MORENO/AP

That has an immediate impact in the upcoming Nov. 10 election because six of them were planning to run as candidates to Spain's parliament.

The verdict is likely to be a central issue in the run-up to the vote but "it is unlikely to substantially alter the electoral outlook unless the situation worsens significantly in the region," said Antonio Barroso, a political risk analyst with the London-based Teneo consulting firm.

He said Catalan separatist politicians wanted to use the backlash against the ruling to woo pro-independence voters to the polls.

Others have feared that swelling support for Catalan separatism because of the convictions could make the next political term even more key to either breaking the deadlock with separatists or making it a chronic problem.

Spain's caretaker prime minister and Socialist leader, Pedro Sanchez, who won the April election but failed to get support for a minority government, is hoping to remain in office.

Even from the early hours after the 493-page Supreme Court ruling was issued, very different views emerged from Madrid and Catalonia. While Sanchez called for beginning a "new phase" and urged Catalan separatists to abide by the law, the ruling invigorated the wealthy region's independence movement, with many of its leaders making new calls to work toward effective secession or repeating the slogan "we will do it again."

The caretaker Spanish foreign minister, Josep Borrell, soon due to become the European Union's top diplomat, said the sentence wasn't resolving the underlying

political problems that only dialogue "in the framework of the Constitution" could.

Spain's constitutional law says that the country is indivisible.

"Yesterday, today and tomorrow it is and remains a political problem that has to be solved," Borrell told foreign reporters, adding that Catalan separatists shouldn't ignore Catalans like him who are against independence.

More protests took place Tuesday, with on and off blockades of regional roads and railway lines. A three-day student strike begins Wednesday.

The regional emergency service, SEM, said 131 people had been treated overnight for injuries, most of them at the airport. Two dozen people were taken to hospitals, one with serious eye damage.

Germany wants more tools to fight extremism

Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany's security services said Tuesday they're seeking greater powers to fight the kind of far-right extremism behind last week's synagogue attack, including requiring internet companies to report illegal hate speech to police.

A 27-year-old German man previously unknown to police confessed to carrying out the attack in the eastern city of Halle in which two people were killed Wednesday. The suspected gunman, identified by prosecutors only as Stephan B. due to privacy rules, allegedly built the firearms he used with the help of online instructions, posted an anti-Semitic screed before the attack and later broadcast the shooting live on a popular gaming site.

Thomas Haldenwang, who heads the BFV domestic intelligence agency, said the attack in Halle and shootings in Texas, New Zealand and Norway showed the need for security services to get better tools to tackle online extremism. He called for authorities to be given permission to install monitoring software on suspects' devices so as to read their encrypted communication.

Holger Muech, head of the Federal Criminal Police Office, said his agency has identified 43 far-right extremists who are considered to constitute a serious threat. He called for greater scrutiny of online hate postings, extending the time security services can store data on possible extremists and for those who create and distribute lists of political enemies to be prosecuted.

WORLD

Leader: Hong Kong not becoming a police state

By JOHN LEICESTER

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's leader said Tuesday that "it's totally irresponsible and unfounded" to suggest the semi-autonomous Chinese territory is becoming a police state as her government grapples with protests now in their fifth month.

In a spirited defense of Hong Kong's 30,000-strong police force and her handling of the protests in response to criticism from visiting U.S. senators, Carrie Lam challenged the notion that the territory is losing its freedoms, unique in China, as police battle demonstrators in the streets.

"I would challenge every politician to ask themselves if the large extent of violent acts, and all those petrol bombs and arson and

deadly attacks on policemen, happened in their own country, what would they do? What would their policemen do?" Lam said. "So my simple response is: To describe Hong Kong as a police state is totally unfounded."

Her comments came as a Hong Kong court addressed one of the most startling cases of violence so far, involving an 18-year-old charged with intentional wounding for a slashing attack on a police officer Sunday.

The court adjourned what would have been a first hearing for Hui Tim-lik because the secondary school student is still in a hospital in the wake of his arrest. Police said the charge carries a possible sentence of up to life imprisonment.

The teen was initially detained on a preliminary charge of at-

tempted murder. Although not the first case during the protests of intentional wounding, the attack has attracted particular attention because it involved a sharp blade, described as a box cutter by Hong Kong media, and was caught on news media video.

Police said the riot control officer required surgery for the cut that severed a nerve. The court adjourned the case until Friday or earlier if Hui is discharged from the hospital before then. About a dozen friends, neighbors and supporters of the teen, some in black, which has become the color of protest in Hong Kong, were in court for Tuesday's brief proceedings.

The protests started in June over a contested extradition bill that would have allowed some criminal suspects to be sent for



KIN CHEUNG/AP

A woman walks past graffiti made by protesters at China Construction Bank Tower in Hong Kong's business district Monday.

trial in mainland China's Communist Party-controlled courts. They have snowballed into an anti-government, anti-police and anti-China movement.

The demonstrations have increasingly ended in violence between hardcore demonstrators and police, who are now widely detested even by more moderate protesters for their riot-control methods and nearly 2,600 arrests.

Police on Monday said a home-made, remote-controlled bomb intended to "kill or to harm" riot officers was detonated as they deployed against a renewed surge of violence and widespread vandalism of subway stations, China-linked businesses and other targets Sunday.

Police said the device exploded not far from a police vehicle, but there were no injuries or substantial damage.



Wildfires burn out of control in Lebanon

Above: Strong fires spread in different parts of Lebanon on Tuesday, forcing some residents to flee their homes in the middle of the night as the flames reached residential areas in villages south of Beirut. Right: Lebanese firemen rest outside a building that was burned in a wildfire overnight in the town of Damour, just over 9 miles south of Beirut.

Photos by Hassan Ammar/AP



British man who abused children killed in prison

Associated Press

LONDON — A British man serving 22 life sentences for abusing scores of Malaysian children has been killed in prison.

Richard Huckle was found dead Sunday at Full Sutton prison in the northern county of Yorkshire.

Police on Tuesday declined to comment on the status of their investigation into his death. The Prison Service confirmed Huckle had died.

He reportedly was stabbed to death using a makeshift knife.

Huckle, a freelance photographer, was convicted in 2016 for abusing children aged from 6 months to 12 years. He sold images of the abuse on the dark web. He groomed children while posing as a Christian English teacher and philanthropist.

In online posts, Huckle bragged that it was easier to target improv-

erished children in Malaysia than youngsters from wealthy Western backgrounds.

Huckle was ordered to serve a minimum of 25 years for 71 offenses against children from 2006 to 2014.

The National Crime Agency arrested Huckle in 2014 following a tip from Australian authorities and found 20,000 indecent images on his encrypted computer, 1,117 of which showed him raping and abusing children in his care.

Huckle also created a 60-page "how to" guide for other pedophiles seeking to evade getting caught and kept a scorecard tallying the number of children abused.

"If you wanted to profile the worst kind of child sex offender, the worst kind of predator, then Richard Huckle was it," said Jim Gamble, former chief executive of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre.

Newborn girl found buried alive in northern India

Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India — Police said a newborn baby girl was found buried alive in an earthen pot in northern India and was hospitalized in critical condition.

Police officer Abhinandan Singh said the girl was found Thursday by a trader who went to a cremation ground to bury his stillborn daughter.

The trader, Hitesh Kumar, was alerted by the cries of the girl as

the workers digging a grave for his daughter smashed the earthen pot. The baby girl was hospitalized in Bareilly, a town in Uttar Pradesh state.

Singh said the police were trying to find her parents.

Indian families, especially in poor communities, generally prefer boys, as they consider girls to be a financial burden for educating and marrying off, which requires money as a dowry.

SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

Who says no red meat?

A challenge to the advice to limit meat is the latest sign nutrition research is facing growing scrutiny

By CANDICE CHOI
Associated Press

NEW YORK — So is red meat good or bad for you? If the answer were only that simple.

A team of international researchers recently rattled the nutrition world by saying there isn't enough evidence to tell people to cut back on red or processed meat, seemingly contradicting advice from prominent health experts and groups including the American Cancer Society and American Heart Association.

But the researchers didn't say people should eat more meat, or that it's healthy. No new studies were conducted, and they reported no new understanding of meat's effects on the body. Instead, the papers offer a new approach to giving advice about food and health — and a rebuke to how it's often done.

The dispute lays bare problems with nutrition research long acknowledged in the scientific world: Nutrition studies are almost never conclusive, and whatever supposed risk and benefits there are to any food are often oversimplified.

"People like bumper sticker guidance," said Walter Willett, a professor of nutrition at Harvard who has led studies tying meat to bad health.

Now health experts are wrestling with how solid scientific findings should be before guidance is issued, how to address biases that might skew conclusions and whether the pleasure we get from eating should be considered.

The scrutiny is likely to spill over to other dietary advice as obesity becomes an ever more critical public health concern, and people become increasingly frustrated with flip-flopping messages.

■ **Meat two ways.** The papers analyzed past studies on red and processed meat and generally corroborated the links to cancers, heart disease and other bad health outcomes. But they said the chance of any benefit from eating less of them appeared small or negligible.

For every 1,000 people, for instance, cutting back on red meat by three servings a week was linked to seven fewer deaths from cancer. For some other health measures, like strokes, the difference was smaller.

What's more, the researchers said there's little certainty meat was the reason for the differences.

Uncertainty is common in nutrition research. Many studies about food and health are based on linking researchers make between people's health and what they say they eat. But that doesn't prove one causes the other. If a thin person loves cereal and eats it nearly every day, for instance, that doesn't mean cereal is the reason they're thin.

Health experts who defend advice to cut back on meat say the researchers were applying an



JOSHUA L. JONES, ATHENS (Ga.) BANNER-HERALD/AP

Competitors cut sirloin at the Texas Roadhouse qualifying meat-cutting competition at the University of Georgia Food Science Building in Athens, Ga., earlier this month. Research questioning the benefits of cutting back on red or processed meat has rattled the nutrition world.

unreasonable standard — evaluating the strength of the meat studies with a method intended for medical studies, where a specific dose of drug can be tested under controlled conditions.

With nutrition, they say it's impossible to conduct studies where people's diets and lifestyles are controlled and monitored over long periods. They say the statistical signals they see in nutrition studies are meaningful, and that people should be given guidance on the best available data.

■ **The person vs. the population.** If it's true that there would be seven fewer cancer deaths for every 1,000 people who cut back on red meat, then it is also true that 993 of those people would not see that benefit even if they ate fewer burgers.

For many public health experts, the potential for those seven fewer deaths is worth making a broad recommendation to limit meat. Across an entire population, the numbers could add up to many lives saved.

But the question is where to draw the line, and at what point the potential benefit is too small and uncertain to ask people to change their behavior.

The authors also argue the individual being asked to change their behavior should be considered. For those who regularly eat and enjoy meat, cutting back on it may seem drastic if all they are getting in return is small reduc-

tion in risk, if any at all.

"Recommendations should consider the values and preferences of people who actually bear the consequences," said Bradley Johnston, lead author of the papers, who specializes in research methodologies.

■ **Tilting the evidence.** Given the uncertainties of nutrition science, another long-running concern is the potential for findings to be skewed by personal beliefs or financial incentives.

The latest papers were no exception, with critics and supporters each pointing to factors that could have influenced the others' position.

Critics noted Johnston, the lead author, undermined another dietary recommendation in the past. He previously led a study funded by the food industry that challenged guidelines to limit added sugars, which serves the interests of many food companies.

That paper initially said the authors independently wrote the plan for the study. After emails obtained by The Associated Press showed the industry group sent "requested revisions," the paper was corrected to say the group reviewed and approved the plan.

Johnston and supporters of the papers countered, saying critics have long advised people to limit meat and could feel the need to defend their position.

The back-and-forth underscores the difficulty of ruling

out the biases any researcher is likely to have, given the amount of industry money in nutrition research and the strong beliefs people often have about food.

Meat is an especially polarizing topic, given the animal welfare and environmental consequences that come with it.

That could further confuse people about who or what to believe, or they just focus on research that backs up what they want to believe.

■ **Lost in translation.** Whenever researchers stand on meat, there's agreement that the nuances of nutrition science often get lost in translation. Foods are often labeled as good or bad, even when researchers try to be nuanced.

Take red meat. The advice to "limit" it often doesn't specify by how much, which could lead people to think cutting back is good regardless of the context. But in poorer countries, red meat might help improve diets. In richer countries, Willett said the benefits of cutting back would vary depending on what replaces it, and that pizza might not be an improvement.

Still, Willett and others who criticized this month's papers say the many Americans who eat red meat once a day or more could benefit from eating less.

There's no consistent recommendation for an acceptable amount. The American Cancer Society's experts say "a few"

servings a week or less. A study by Willett, which also addressed the environmental impact of food, advised a limit of one serving a week.

Public health experts want to give people advice that's easy to communicate. But most acknowledge that doing a better job of conveying nuances and uncertainties could help prevent mistrust and confusion.

■ **So what should we eat?** Already, the U.S. dietary guidelines have backpedaled on advice to limit total fat, which has been blamed for encouraging people to eat too much pasta and cookies. In the years since, the guidelines have focused on the saturated fat found in foods like meat, butter and some packaged foods, saying it should be limited to 10% of calories.

As advice around specific foods changes, health experts have increasingly focused on the importance of overall diets. Some note focusing on single foods, which often have a complex mix of nutrients, can also distract from a simpler message: Don't eat too much, since eating more calories than you burn makes you gain weight.

"If everyone would just pay attention to that one, we would solve a lot of problems," said Marion Nestle, a professor of nutrition and food policy at New York University.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Official apologizes after student is denied meal

SD HURON — A South Dakota superintendent apologized after learning a student at a middle school was denied breakfast as a form of discipline.

Huron Superintendent Terry Nebelsick said a complaint was made to the South Dakota Department of Education after the incident was shared on social media.

Nebelsick, posting on Facebook, said a staff member at Huron Middle School violated district policy last week by denying the child breakfast because the student was misbehaving.

Pickup moving at high speed crashes into roof

WI BELOIT — Police said a Wisconsin man was arrested after crashing a pickup truck into the roof of a Beloit home.

Beloit police said the 37-year-old Beloit man was driving at a high rate of speed Saturday afternoon when his vehicle left the roadway, entered a water-retaining ditch and went airborne.

The homeowner said he was watching a football game when the truck came crashing through the roof about 12 feet from him.

No injuries were reported. The driver was arrested on suspicion of operating a vehicle while under the influence, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and reckless driving.

Windsurfer stranded in water overnight

DE DEWEY BEACH — A windsurfer spent a night stranded and floating in waters off Delaware after his sail broke and no one could hear his calls for help.

The Daily Times of Salisbury, Md., reported Sunday the man was found uninjured around 7:45 a.m. Friday after floating for hours from Dewey Beach to Bay City, where he reached the shore. The U.S. Coast Guard, Delaware State Police and other agencies had searched for him.

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control said the man told police he could not reach the sail to his board after it disconnected. The unnamed man was wearing a life jacket and carried a whistle, but nobody heard his calls for help.

Fire chief: 'Elusive' alligator caught

MD ADAMSTOWN — A fire chief in rural Maryland said an "elusive" 3-foot-long alligator has finally been caught.

WJLA-TV reported the alligator was caught Saturday in a retention pond on a private property in Adamstown after animal control officers and others spent hours Thursday and Friday trying to capture it. The station reported officers ended up placing a live animal cage trap with bait



DAVE SCHERBENCO, THE (WILKES-BARRE, PA.) CITIZENS' VOICE/AP

Not your average toy

Phil and Sebastian Bonczewski pause next to a vintage airplane during Airport Day at Wyoming Valley Airport in Wyoming, Pa., on Saturday.

on the muddy shoreline after initial efforts using a fishing line failed.

Maryland residents are not allowed to own exotic animals, including alligators. The station reported Frederick County Animal Control said the alligator was likely abandoned by its owner due to its size.

River otters attack, injure pet dog in park

AK ANCHORAGE — An Alaska man said he rescued his family's dog from an attack by river otters in a small lake inside an Anchorage park. Alaska Public Media reported Kenny Brewer, 27, waded waist-deep into Taku Lake and suffered a bite on his hand while pulling the dog away from the river otters that converged on the pet.

The Anchorage dietitian said he and his wife were walking the husky mix, which was bitten by a group of otters that dragged the dog underwater temporarily.

Brewer said a veterinarian cleaned the dog's cuts, sliced away damaged tissue and stitched a drain tube into its leg.

Police: Suspect drove 130 mph, wrecked

GA ALPHARETTA — Police in Georgia said a DUI suspect who was clocked

THE CENSUS

131

The weight, in pounds, of marijuana plants that police said were in a stolen van that a Delaware man is accused of driving. Citing a Dover, Del., police statement, news outlets reported Jaquell McDonald, 24, was arrested on charges including possessing marijuana with the intent to deliver it and evidence tampering. Officers pulled him over and uncovered the plants, which appeared to have been recently pulled from the ground.

going 130 mph down a highway went airborne in his car, struck a median and flipped over a guardrail before walking away unharmed.

Alpharetta police said in a Facebook post they encountered the unidentified driver early Saturday morning. An officer began a pursuit after he found the man was traveling nearly 65 mph over the speed limit, but the suspect sped up.

Police said he lost control of the vehicle while exiting and rebounded off a concrete median, then climbed out of his Volvo without serious injuries.

Grenade found in yard is safely disposed of

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — Police in Oklahoma City are investigating how a grenade wound up in a residential yard.

Authorities said a homeowner on the city's southeast side was

doing yard work when he noticed what appeared to be a grenade in the yard of his neighbor Saturday. The Oklahoma City Police Department Bomb Squad responded to the homeowner's call but could not immediately determine if the grenade was potentially explosive or inert.

Officials said bomb squad personnel decided to take custody of the grenade and dispose of it on the police firing range.

Retiring pilot gives wings to toddler

FL MIAMI — An American Airlines pilot retiring after 35 years gave his wings to a Florida toddler with Down syndrome after his final flight.

Sarah and Ki Klitenick had been sitting next to the pilot's wife on a flight from Madrid to Miami earlier this month. The woman texted her husband in the cockpit, asking Capt. Joe Weis to come and meet 2-year-old Ki.

Weis took the child on a tour of the cockpit and then pinned his wings on Ki's shirt. The token was not the commemorative ones for kids; they were the captain's personal wings from the airline.

The Orlando Sentinel reported Friday that the delighted toddler clapped and said "thank you" in sign language. Sarah Klitenick said her son can't stop talking about his new friend.

Ski resort wins race to become first to open

CO FRISCO — A Colorado ski resort has opened its doors to become the first in the state to kick off ski season ahead of a scheduled opening by a nearby resort.

The Summit Daily reported Arapahoe Basin Ski Area beat Keystone Resort to become the first opened ski resort after announcing Friday that it would start operating lifts at 3:30 p.m. A-Basin said it would run until 5:30 p.m. to provide access to the intermediate trail for \$15.

Keystone said investments in its snowmaking infrastructure allow it to operate more efficiently and open earlier.

From wire reports

FACES



Paul Rudd stars as a man who finds that a new and improved clone has taken over his life in "Living with Myself." The eight-part dramedy airs on Netflix starting Friday.

Double the Rudd

Actor plays the same character twice on Netflix comedy

By FRANK LOVECE
Newsday

Paul Rudd is beside himself — literally. On his Netflix series "Living with Yourself," premiering Friday, with all eight episodes, marketing executive Miles Elliott faces existential questions of memory and identity when he finds himself sharing his life with his new and improved clone. "New Miles" is optimistic, thoughtful and excited about everything — especially Miles' architect wife (Aisling Bea).

There are comedic moments, but it's more a half-hour dramatic fable in which Rudd, 50 — best known for such comedies as "Clueless," "Knocked Up" and "This Is 40," and the lighthearted Marvel Studios superhero Ant-Man — portrays a beaten soul barely clinging to his marriage and career.

Rudd spoke by phone with Newsday contributor Frank Lovece.

Newsday: "Living with Yourself" felt to me like one of those classic fantasy sitcoms such as "Bewitched" or "I Dream of Jeannie," except as a drama.

Rudd: Well, I think that it's a bit more existential than that. I think there's something more "Black Mirror" about it to me than almost anything. And the subject matter was deep enough and universal enough that I found its themes interesting ones to tackle. Not to disparage "Bewitched" or "I Dream of Jeannie," (chuckles) Those absolutely are classics in their own right!

One theory of identity says we're simply the sum of our accumulated memories. New Miles has the same memories as Miles, but his personality is much more positive. Did you and the producers talk about this, to get a handle on your characters?

We had conversations that veered into that territory, the very basic one being if we had the same memories, why is our outlook not the same? And we say [in the show] it's all fresh, new DNA and that explains why he might be more fresh-faced and optimistic. But then we started veering into this idea that New Miles has all the same memories but he doesn't have the actual experiences. And so if you don't have the actual experiences, do you retain the same kind of scar tissue? I don't think you do. That was ultimately where we landed, about what makes Old Miles a bit more weathered and beaten in the way he approaches everything.

I know a good actor can play almost any type of emotion, but you've been highly successful from the start. What did you draw on to create the downtrodden Miles?

I've lived a life! (laughs). It doesn't matter how successful you might be in your career, you can't live a life without taking shots. And I haven't advertised my shots, but I've experienced loss and I've experienced pain and I've experienced anything that anybody else experiences. ... I think we all know that regardless of where we're at in our jobs or where we're at in our lives, there's always more to the story.

Trump calls for Spicer votes on 'Dancing with the Stars'

From wire services

President Donald Trump is trying to influence votes on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

Trump on Monday tweeted that viewers should vote for former White House press secretary Sean Spicer. The president called Spicer a "good guy" and wrote "he has always been there for us!"

Spicer tweeted his thanks with instructions on how viewers can cast votes.

Spicer has been paired with professional dancer Lindsay Arnold as they compete for the mirror ball trophy.

He says he's doing it "to have fun and make it a really good experience."

Trump supporters have embraced Spicer, but opponents have criticized the program for inviting him.

Spicer told USA Today there's no question a "huge" amount of his votes come from Trump supporters.

"Dancing with the Stars" airs stateside on Monday nights.

'Abominable' banned in Vietnam over map

Not even an animated movie about a cuddly yeti could avoid becoming a flashpoint in an international dispute involving China.

Vietnam has reportedly pulled the DreamWorks Animation cartoon "Abominable" from theaters because of the movie's depiction of a map of China that includes the nation's "nine-dash line," which lays claim to a vast expanse of the South China Sea.

China has used its assertion of territorial rights in the region to move into areas claimed by other countries, including Vietnam.

Reuters, quoting state media, reported late Sunday that the film was removed from theaters in Vietnam after images of the offending map were widely shared on social media.

The filmmakers went out of their way to make the film appeal to Chinese audiences, seeking to make its portrayal of a modern Chinese family as authentic as possible. But the \$75-million picture has struggled to break out in China so far, collecting an esti-



Former White House press secretary Sean Spicer and Lindsay Arnold are stayin' alive on "Dancing with the Stars."

mated \$14 million in the country since its Oct. 1 release there.

Audio version of Dylan's 'Tarantula' coming

Bob Dylan's "Tarantula," a stream-of-consciousness work first released in 1971, is finally coming out in audio.

Simon & Schuster announced Tuesday that Will Patton is the narrator, reciting such lines as "raggedy ann daughter of brazos and teeth in the necklace." Dylan first wrote "Tarantula" in the mid-1960s at the height of his career. But his 1966 motorcycle accident delayed publication and made the book a kind of underground legend, with unauthorized versions turning up. By 1971, Dylan's influence had waned and reviewers were unimpressed.

The audio of "Tarantula" comes out December 3.

Other news

■ **Al Roker** is coming back for another helping of pie in "Waitress." The venerable weather anchor on NBC's "Today" show will return to the Broadway hit as Joe, the curmudgeonly diner owner, from Nov. 1-24. Roker even gets to sing — the tender ballad "Take It From an Old Man."

■ **Richard Jackson**, a publisher of acclaimed children's books by Judy Blume, Paula Fox and others, died Oct. 2, according to Simon & Schuster's Children's Publishing. He was 84.

Booker judges refuse to choose: Atwood, Evaristo share fiction prize

Associated Press

Canadian writer Margaret Atwood and British author Bernardine Evaristo split the Booker Prize on Monday, after the judging panel refused to name one winner for the prestigious fiction trophy.

Chairman Peter Florence said the five judges simply couldn't choose between Atwood's dystopian thriller "The Testaments" and Evaristo's kaleidoscope of black women's stories, "Girl, Woman, Other."

Florence said the judges refused to back down when told the rules prohibit more than one winner.

"Our consensus was that it was our de-

cision to flout the rules," he said. "I think laws are inviolable and rules are adaptable to the circumstance."

Prize organizers didn't see it that way. Gaby Wood, literary director of the Booker Prize Foundation, said prize trustees repeatedly told the judges they couldn't have two winners, but they "essentially staged a sit-in in the judging room" as deliberations dragged on for five hours.

Atwood and Evaristo will split the \$50,000 prize (\$63,000 Booker Prize purse).

Florence said both books "address the world today and give us insights into it and create characters that resonate with us. They also happen to be wonderfully compelling page-turning thrillers."

Both winners said they were happy to share the prize.

"It would have been quite embarrassing for a person of my age and stage to have won the whole thing and thereby have kept a younger one, at different stage of their career, from going through that door," said Atwood, who at 79 is the oldest-ever Booker winner.

Evaristo, 62, said winning the Booker was something that "felt so unattainable for decades."

"So I'm just absolutely delighted to have the prize and to share the prize," she said.

Atwood, who won the Booker in 2000 for "The Blind Assassin," had been the bookmakers' favorite to win the coveted trophy

for a second time with her follow-up to "The Handmaid's Tale." Like that book — now a hit TV series — "The Testaments" is set in Gilead, a theocratic republic taken root in the United States, where young women are forced to bear children for powerful men.

Evaristo, who is of Anglo-Nigerian heritage, is the first black woman to take the trophy. She has published seven previous books but is less known than her co-winner.

Florence said that "there is something utterly magical" about the 12 characters from many walks of life who narrate "Girl, Woman, Other."

"They give a wonderful spectrum of black British women today," he said.

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays except Dec. 25 and Jan. 13 for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and 60 cents on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO 96301-5002.

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OPINION

For GLs, betraying the Kurds is sickening

By DAVID IGNATIUS
Washington Post Writers Group

At a gathering last Saturday night of military and intelligence veterans, one topic shrouded the room: President Donald Trump's decision to abandon Kurdish fighters in Syria who had fought and died to help America destroy Islamic State.

"It's a dagger to the heart to walk away from people who shed blood for us," one former top CIA official who attended the black-tie dinner told me later. A retired four-star general who was there said the same thing: Trump's retreat was an "un-sound, morally indefensible act" and a "disgrace" to America and the soldiers who serve this country.

This sense of anguish was pervasive among those attending the event, several attendees said. It was an annual dinner honoring the Office of Strategic Services, the secret World War II command group that was a forerunner of today's CIA and special operations forces. The event celebrated the military alliances that have always been at the center of American power. It was a bitter anniversary this year.

It's probably impossible for Americans to fully grasp the sense of betrayal felt by the Syrian Kurds, who suffered 11,000 dead and 24,000 wounded in a war that we asked them to fight. But perhaps we can understand the shame and outrage of the special operations forces who fought along side them and now see the Kurds cast aside to face their Kurdish enemies alone.

"It will go down in infamy," said one Army officer who served in the Syrian campaign. "This will go down as a stain on the American reputation for decades." Those may sound like extreme sentiments, but they're widely shared by those who served in the Syria mission. For these soldiers, abandoning an ally on the battlefield is about the worst thing that can happen.

To explain what we looked like to the Americans who served in Syria, I've gone back through my notes from four trips there with the U.S. military. I never encountered a soldier who doubted that the war made sense.

On my first trip in May 2016, I spent several hours talking with a tall, thick-bearded American officer, both arms decorated with slashes of tattoos, he spoke like a video-game action hero. He scoffed at Turkish claims that the Syrian Democratic Forces, led by a Kurdish militia called the YPG, was a terrorist cult. "They stand their ground," he said. That seemed the highest compliment he could give.

The war moved quickly, as the SDF went house to house, clearing jihadis, and America raised bombs from the sky. In July 2017, rumbling down a dirt road near Tabqa that, in theory, had recently been demined, a sergeant major from Oklahoma is playing country music super-loud on the radio. He talks about home, but it's obvious, listening to him, that there's nowhere he and most of his colleagues would rather be than right here.

We sit on the floor with the Kurdish commanders who have just seized Tabqa in a costly assault. They tell us it's

their duty, and they keep pushing more food at us. In the concrete tower where ISIS had hurled homosexual prisoners to their death, all that's left are trash heaps and jihadist slogans painted on the walls.

By February 2018, the ISIS capital of Raqqa is just a pile of rubble. As we drive through the caverns of shattered concrete, children start waving to the soldiers, the way civilians do after any war, probably because they're so glad it's over. I meet an American doctor who's the only trauma surgeon in the area, who spends all day, every day, treating severely wounded Syrians. She says it's an "honor" to be in Syria.

And now, as we near the end of the story, it's July 2019, and I'm in Kobani meeting with Gen. Mazloum Abdi, the Syrian Kurdish commander. Trump has announced in December that he wants to withdraw all American troops. Mazloum is too polite and loyal to criticize the American president. "We respect any decision made by the U.S., whether they want to stay or leave," he says in a calm, flat, battle-hardened voice.

American officers tell me later that Mazloum has been criticized for being too trusting in America, but Mazloum insists that he has confidence in his allies. I ask one of the U.S. officers what it was like to tell Mazloum in December that the U.S. would be leaving. The answer isn't printable.

What to these American soldiers feel as they watch Trump retreat from the Syrian battlefield and leave their former comrades to die? They feel sick.

The democratic success story no one talks about

By CHRISTIAN CARLY

The Washington Post

President Donald Trump is lashing out against the media and his opposition as he faces impeachment for turning U.S. foreign policy into an extension of his reelection campaign. The British Parliament is poised to vote down Prime Minister Boris Johnson's legislative program next week, raising the prospect of a "zombie government" crippled by a deepening split over Brexit. And a Polish election has delivered a resounding win for the authoritarian Law and Justice party — effectively rewarding it for a systematic assault on press freedom and other democratic institutions.

This is not a happy time for advocates of liberal democracy.

And yet there was one dazzling bolt of good news that emerged from the darkness this past weekend: Tunisia just held the second round of its presidential vote — and the people won.

A conservative law professor, Kais Saïed, emerged as the victor with 70% of the vote. He trounced his opponent, Nabil Karoui, a media tycoon who was released from prison just last week. Karoui is a fiery populist who takes his cue from tough-talking strongmen such as the Philippines' Rodrigo Duterte, Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Trump. Yet he lost — and conceded to his opponent.

Tunisians could have easily opted for the Karoui quick fix. Voters have a lot to be unhappy about. The economy is in dismal shape. Joblessness is rampant. Corruption remains widespread.

And yet they chose Saïed, a no-drama candidate if there ever was one. Make no mistake, Tunisians wanted change, the political novice Saïed represents a dramatic departure from business as usual. His

unlikely rise has a lot in common with that of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, another outsider who won by promising voters a fresh start.

In case you've forgotten — and you can be forgiven for that, given how rarely global media mention the story — here's a brief refresher: Tunisia was the country that began a historic wave of revolt across the Arab world in 2011. Secular young reformer named Mohammed Bouazizi killed himself by self-immolation to protest abuse by local officials. The resulting uprising toppled Tunisian dictator Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali and triggered a series of other revolutions around North Africa and the Middle East. Those other countries have since succumbed to civil war (Libya, Syria, Yemen) or authoritarian resurgence (Egypt).

But Tunisia has pushed ahead, holding vote after vote. Along the way, the party that started off as the local branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Ennahda Party, decided to distance itself from an Islamist agenda. Terrorist movements staged attacks that aimed to undermine representation. Secular conservatives tried to push back on civil liberties.

And yet Tunisians kept returning to the ballot box — or taking to the streets to express their dissent. And so they've managed to keep their remarkable democratic experiment grinding along. They passed laws protecting minority rights; civil society groups have continued to press vocally for reforms. (And the fact that Tunisian democracy continues to exist at all remains the most eloquent possible rebuke to the Islamist militants.)

Yes, I know the objections. Tunisians aren't happy. Prosperity and good government remain a mirage. The country's young democratic institutions are fragile. And let's face it — it's a small country (population 12 million), more of an outlier

than a representative of its own region.

Yet there are some fundamental features of Tunisians' continuing fight for an open society that aren't so easily dismissed. Ask Americans and Europeans about the prospects for democracy around the world, and you'll often hear a lot of sloppy thinking. You might be told that Muslims and Arabs (frequently regarded as one and the same) are inherently authoritarian. You might be informed that Africans are too "underdeveloped" (read: "primitive") to handle democratic institutions.

They clearly haven't been paying attention. Earlier this year, activists in Sudan (population 43 million) succeeded in toppling one of the continent's most vicious dictators. The latest Nobel Peace Prize effectively singled out Ethiopia (population 108 million) for its tremendous progress in opening up a once-closed society. In Algeria (population 43 million), Tunisia's next-door neighbor, armies of protesters continue to demand reform from their own ossified autocracy. The vibrancy of political discourse on social media among Egyptians, Yemenis and Saudis demonstrates that people around the world still long to express their views, to shape how they're governed, to participate in their own fates.

Indeed, when I look at Tunisia — or Hong Kong, or Taiwan, or Indonesia — I can't help wondering if maybe, just maybe, the future of democracy really lies outside of the West. These days it can sometimes be hard to escape the impression that Europeans and Americans are too complacent, too self-absorbed to stand up and fight for their freedoms. Freedom is hard work, after all — especially if you take it for granted.

People in Tunisia and Hong Kong clearly don't. I wish them the strength to go on fighting the good fight.

Christian Carly is an editor with The Washington Post's Global Opinions section.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Wages, pensions still issues in GM strike

By TOM KRISHER
Associated Press

DETROIT — With the strike by factory workers against General Motors in its 29th day, there are signs that negotiators may be moving toward an agreement.

After both sides exchanged barbs late last week, bargainers met late into the night during the weekend, and they've returned in the morning, talking with few interruptions. All of those are signs that they're progressing on key issues.

"The fact that they're not name-calling anymore, at least for now, they've stayed a little later at least," said Art Schwartz, a former GM negotiator who now runs a labor consulting business in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Late Monday, the union sum-

moned its General Motors Council, a group of factory-level union officials, to a meeting in Detroit on Thursday. This group normally would be brought together to approve an agreement, but both sides said talks continued Monday evening and no deal had been reached.

A letter calling the meeting says it's for a "contract update and any other agenda items to be determined."

Schwartz said convening the council usually means there's a deal, but this year, union leaders seem to be giving more information to local leaders than in the past.

On Thursday GM accused the union of responding slowly to an offer it made early last week and said CEO Mary Barra urged it to speed up negotiations.

But Terry Dittes, the union's top GM negotiator, accused the company of releasing "half-truths" that did nothing to reach a final agreement. The union raised strike pay by \$25 per week to \$275, starting this week.

Going into the strike's second month by 49,000 workers that has paralyzed GM's U.S. factories, the union and GM are still apart on the company's commitment for new products, with the union arguing that all vehicles sold in the U.S. should also be built in the U.S.

GM has offered \$9 billion worth of investments at U.S. factories, \$7.7 billion from the company and another \$1.3 billion from joint ventures, according to two people briefed on the talks.

The \$1.3 billion includes a battery cell factory in the area

of Lordstown, Ohio, where GM wants to close an assembly plant, said the people, who didn't want to be identified because the talks are confidential.

Wages and lump-sum payments also are areas of disagreement, with the union seeking hourly pay raises and the company wanting annual lump-sum payments. A company offer last week gave workers 4% lump sums in the first and third years of the four-year contract, with 3% pay raises in the second and fourth years. That would be in addition to annual profit-sharing checks. This year, workers got checks for \$10,750 each. GM also offered to lift the \$12,000 cap on profit-sharing checks.

Also at issue are the union's drive for sweeter retirement ben-

efits. Workers hired before 2007 get a defined benefit pensions, while those hired after 2007 get 401(k)-style payments. The pension formula has not been increased for a dozen years.

After initially trying to cut health care costs, GM has agreed to keep benefits and payments the same as they are now. Union members pay 3% premiums, while most workers at large companies in the U.S. pay over 30%, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Oct. 16)	\$1.1294
Dollar buys (Oct. 16)	€0.8854
British pound (Oct. 16)	\$1.30
Japanese yen (Oct. 16)	¥105.00
South Korean won (Oct. 16)	₩1,154.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.2626
Canada (Dollar)	1.3233
China (Yuan)	7.0823
Denmark (Krone)	6.7955
Egypt (Pound)	16.2298
Euro	\$1.0940/0.9096
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8457
Hungary (Forint)	302.43
Israel (Shekel)	3.5224
Japan (Yen)	108.46
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3039
Norway (Krone)	9.1667
Philippines (Peso)	\$1.65
Poland (Zloty)	3.91
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7515
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3715
South Korea (Won)	1,186.77
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9989
Thailand (Baht)	30.99
Turkey (Lira)	6.3935

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the currency of issue for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom for nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

MARKET WATCH

Oct. 14, 2019

Dow Jones Industrials	-29.23
26,787.36	
Nasdaq composite	-8.39
8,048.65	
Standard & Poor's 500	-4.12
2,966.15	
Russell 2000	-6.47
1,505.43	

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federals funds market rate	3.02
3-month bill	1.63
30-year bond	2.21

Despite defections, Facebook officially launches Libra

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Facebook officially moved forward with its plans Monday to create a new digital currency called Libra, despite several high-profile defections from the project and intense criticism from U.S. regulators and politicians.

The Libra Association, the nonprofit that will govern the currency, officially signed on 21 charter members Monday at the organization's inaugural meeting in Geneva. Originally, the Libra Association had 27 potential members, but several companies dropped out in recent days, including Visa, Mastercard and PayPal.

Most of the remaining mem-

bers of the Libra Association consist of venture capital firms, who often have an eye on emerging technologies and align with Facebook's interests, as well as nonprofits.

Some larger companies who are now members of the association include Uber, Lyft, Spotify and European telecommunications company Vodafone. The association said in a statement that an unnamed additional 180 entities have expressed interest and have met the initial requirements to join.

Facebook has faced criticism since the summer when it unveiled plans to create a separate, private currency system to allow users to make cross-border pay-

ments more easily. Politicians have said they believe Facebook's struggles with protecting users' privacy would spill over into Libra, despite it being a separate organization.

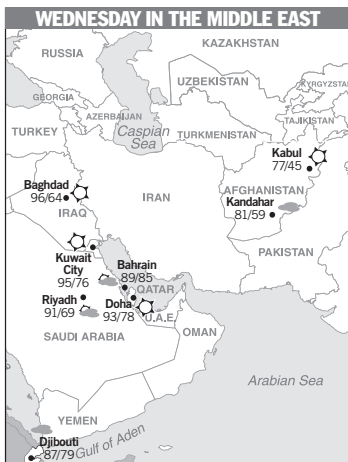
The Menlo Park, Calif.-based company tries to answer those criticisms by creating Libra as a legally separate entity through the Libra Association and by not owning Libra itself. But Facebook is still involved, even at an arm's length.

The association elected David Marcus, a Facebook executive and co-creator of Libra, as one of the association's five directors. Katie Haun, with Andreessen Horowitz, one of the venture capital firms that invested in Face-

book before it went public, was elected to the board as well.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is scheduled to appear in front of the House Financial Services Committee later this month to discuss Libra.

WEATHER OUTLOOK



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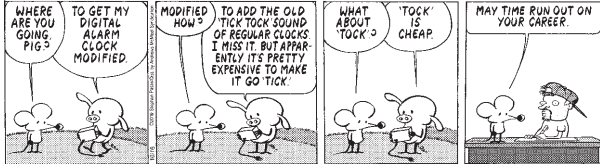
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



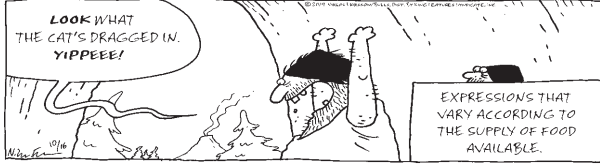
Non Sequitur



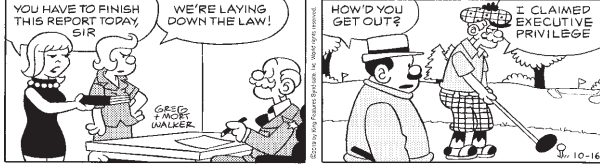
Candorville



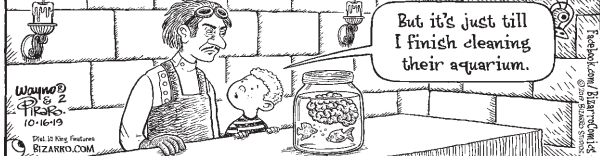
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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59					60					61		

ACROSS

- 1 Nile biter
- 4 Infant
- 8 Teen hangout
- 12 Corp. boss
- 13 Bygone Peruvian
- 14 Bailiwick
- 15 Corn spike
- 16 One who can't be criticized
- 18 Nodded off
- 20 Elmer, to Bugs
- 21 Rainbow
- 24 Brazilian dance
- 28 "You Send Me" singer
- 32 Tropical tree
- 33 Cagers' gp.
- 34 Tizzies
- 36 Regret
- 37 "It's not — deal!"
- 39 Capri's Blue

DOWN

- 1 High cards
- 2 Barking mammal
- 3 Skin opening
- 4 Casual eateries
- 5 "Suburgatory" actress Gasteyer
- 6 Abbr. in an email
- 7 Lawn party site
- 8 Wild and crazy
- 9 Lob's path
- 10 Author Tolstoy
- 11 Murphy's —
- 17 Dawn goddess
- 19 Photo, for short
- 22 Charged bits
- 23 Heavens above
- 25 Sportscaster Albert
- 26 Sad
- 27 Iowa city

- 28 Unforeseen problem
- 29 French cleric
- 30 Primary
- 31 List-ending abbr.
- 35 Con artist
- 38 Pumpkin relatives
- 40 Khan title
- 42 "Better Call Saul" network
- 45 Experts
- 47 Apple mogul Steve
- 48 Classic theaters
- 49 Make over
- 50 Govt. lender
- 51 Rowing need
- 52 Einstein's birthplace
- 53 Swelled head
- 54 In the style of

Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	O	I	L	N	A	S	A		H	U	B
T	O	T	E		I	M	A	N		I	R
W	O	O	D	S	T	O	C	K		T	D
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B	A	H	S		K	E	N	T	U	C	K
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10-16

CRYPTOQUIP

DVO QYD POWK DV G AGPZVP
JBNN GCWOA G AZIOA YGK
JOOV NGBVUYOI DCC ZW:
KBUUOKKDA WD WYO
WYADQV.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHAT SOUND WOULD MY FELINE PET HAVE PRODUCED AT THIS VERY SECOND? THE PURR OF THE MOMENT.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: V equals N

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Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL
National League
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Announced pitching coach Roney Hunt will join the team as a special assistant next season.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Waived G Matt Mooney. Signed G Dusty Hannahs.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
BUFFALO BILLS — Signed WR Jordan Wesley to the practice squad.
CHICAGO BEARS — Placed OL Kyle Long on injured reserve. Signed RB Evan Baylis from the practice squad and TE Dax Raymond to the practice squad.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed TE Evan Baylis from the practice squad. Released RB Mike Daniels.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Placed DE Kemari O'Neal on IR. Signed TE Earl David.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Placed FB Jakob Johnson on injured reserve.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Terminated the contract of LB Nate Solder. Signed WR Brian Roberts.

NEW YORK JETS — Activated TE Chris Herndon. Waived FB Frankie Luke.

National Hockey League
NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Recalled F Ovechkin from Bridgeport (AHL).
TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS — Recalled D Rasmus Sandin to Toronto (AHL). Recalled D Kevin Gravel from Toronto.

SOCCER
Portland Timbers — Recalled Collin Rovere vice president of communications. Signed D Timbers, Thoms FC, 12 and Providence Park.

COLLEGE
BIG TEN — Suspended Michigan hockey player Griffin Luke. Recalled D Luke from the team. Oct. 12 game against Clarkson.

WOMEN'S — Michigan Schorn's and women's assistant coach country and track coach.

Muhammad has entered the transfer portal.

Pro basketball

NBA preseason
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division
Philadelphia 1,000
Brooklyn 1,000
New York 1,000
Toronto 1,000

Southwest Division
Miami 1,000
Orlando 1,000
Washington 1,000
Charlotte 1,000
Atlanta 1,000

Central Division
Milwaukee 1,000
Indiana 1,000
Detroit 1,000
Cleveland 1,000
Chicago 1,000

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest
New Orleans 1,000
Memphis 1,000
Houston 1,000
San Antonio 1,000

Northwest Division
Denver 1,000
Oklahoma City 1,000
Minnesota 1,000
Portland 1,000
Utah 1,000

Pacific Division
L.A. Lakers 2,500
Sacramento 2,500
Golden State 2,500
Clippers 2,500
Jazz 2,500

Sunday's games
Boston 118, Cleveland 72
C. Clippers 115, Melbourne United 100
New Orleans 123, San Antonio 114
Charlotte 126, Orlando 100
Milwaukee 115, Washington 108
Chicago 107, Phoenix 100
Minnesota 131, Maccabi Haifa 101

Monday's games
Miami 120, Atlanta 100
Charlotte 120, Memphis 99
C. Clippers 105, Toronto 100
Sacramento 128, Utah 115
Detroit 107, Phoenix 100
L.A. Lakers 104, Golden State 98

Tuesday's games
Detroit at Cleveland
Detroit at Philadelphia
Minnesota at Indiana

College football

Top 25 schedule

Saturday
No. 4 Ohio State at Northwestern
Sunday
No. 1 Alabama vs. Tennessee
No. 2 LSU at Mississippi State
No. 3 Clemson at Louisville
No. 5 Oklahoma vs. West Virginia
No. 6 Wisconsin at Illinois
No. 7 Penn State vs. No. 16 Michigan
No. 8 Florida vs. South Carolina
No. 10 Georgia vs. Kentucky
No. 11 Auburn at Arkansas
No. 12 Oregon at No. 25 Washington
No. 13 Utah vs. No. 17 Arizona State
No. 14 Boise State at BYU
No. 15 Texas vs. Kansas
No. 16 Baylor at Oklahoma State
No. 19 Iowa vs. Temple
No. 20 Minnesota at Rutgers
No. 21 Cincinnati vs. Tulsa
No. 22 Missouri at Vanderbilt
No. 23 Iowa vs. Purdue
No. 24 Appalachian State vs. Louisville and Monroe

FCS Coaches Poll

Records through Oct. 12
Record Pts Pvs
1. N. Dakota State (26) 6-0 650
2. James Madison 6-1 622
3. South Dakota State 6-1 600
4. Kansas State 5-1 555
5. Weber State 5-1 555
6. Montana 5-1 516
8. Furman 4-2 488
9. Nicholls 4-2 488
10. North Carolina 4-2 380
11. N.C. A&T 4-1 369
12. Middle Tennessee 4-1 369
13. Central Arkansas 4-2 336
14. North Carolina 4-2 336
15. Northern Iowa 4-2 336
16. Princeton 4-0 224
17. Sacramento State 4-2 197
18. Youngstown State 4-2 197
19. Austin Peay 4-2 197
20. Towson 3-3 152
21. N.C. A&T 3-4 108
22. UC Davis 4-2 96
23. New Hampshire 4-2 96
24. Delaware 4-2 96
25. Incarnate Word 4-2 96
26. Sam Houston State 4-2 96
27. Campbell 4-2 96
28. Stony Brook 4-2 96
29. Eastern Washington 4-2 96
30. Murray State 4-2 96
31. Lamar 2, Elon 1

STATS FCS Poll

The top 25 teams in the STATS Football Championship Subdivision poll. First-place votes in parentheses, records through Oct. 12, points and previous rank:

Record Pts Pvs
1. N. Dakota State (15) 3-0 393
2. James Madison (2) 6-1 374
3. South Dakota State 4-1 369
4. Weber State 4-2 363
5. Montana 5-1 352
6. Kansas State 5-1 302
7. Villanova 6-1 298
8. Furman 4-2 273
9. Nicholls 4-2 263
10. N.C. A&T 4-1 292
11. Illinois State 4-2 218
12. North Carolina 4-2 218
13. Central Arkansas 4-2 184
14. Northern Iowa 3-1 184
15. Sacramento State 4-2 167
16. Jacksonville State 5-2 158
17. Delaware 4-2 158
18. Towson 3-3 107
19. Austin Peay 4-2 89
20. Dartmouth 4-2 77
21. New Hampshire 4-2 77
22. UC Davis 3-4 59
23. Delaware 4-2 59
25. CCSU 5-1 274
26. Middle Tennessee 4-2 274
27. Sam Houston State 4-2 274
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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Elliott: No. 3 Clemson has regained its edge

By PETE IACOBELLI
Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — Clemson offensive coordinator Tony Elliott said he believes the third-ranked Tigers are on the right track to return to playing aggressive, dominant football, something the team had to be reminded of the past couple of weeks.

Elliott said Monday the Tigers (6-0, 4-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) had slipped into a funk after the season's first month and needed reminding how they had won two of the past three national championships. Clemson's players got the message, pounding Florida State 45-14 on Saturday. "Overall, we wanted to let these guys know who we are, what's made us successful," said Elliott, who shares coordinator duties with receivers coach Jeff Scott.

Still, Clemson dropped in the national rankings again after a victory. The Tigers, who started the year at No. 1, fell to No. 2 behind Alabama after their close call in a 21-20 win at North Carolina on Sept. 28. Clemson was passed by LSU this week, despite rolling over the Seminoles.

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said his focus is on Louisville, not the Top 25 poll.

Swinney said the win against Florida State was his teams' best overall showing of the year and that it's essential to carry the dominant play against the Seminoles into its matchup at Louisville (4-2, 2-1) on Saturday. He said the Tigers aren't worried about their poll position, only about being in the right spot at the end of the year



RICHARD SHIMO/AP

Clemson's Travis Etienne runs past Florida State's Akeem Dent during the Tigers' 45-14 win Saturday. Etienne ran for 127 yards and had a touchdown catch.

when the College Football Playoff participants are picked.

Right now, the Tigers simply need to "continue to have the edge that it takes," Swinney said.

Clemson got strong showings from its best players, which Swinney said is a sign that his team is on the winning path.

Quarterback Trevor Lawrence threw three touchdowns and tailback Travis Etienne ran for 127 yards and caught a scor-

ing pass.

A mid-season slump is natural, senior right tackle Tremayne Anchrum said, after nearly two months of grinding away at practice and school — particularly for a team that has won a program-record 21 straight games.

"It's usually after the monotony of the day-by-day (routine), it can really take a toll on you," Anchrum said.

He credited coaches with laying a solid

foundation of focus on looking solely on the next opponent, not on what Clemson's already accomplished or the major challenges down the road.

"That's when they emphasize, 'Hey, you've got to find your motivation today. You've got to find your edge today. What's going to make you be great,'" he said.

Clemson expects a different Louisville than it saw last year in the Tigers' 77-16 blowout. Elliott said there was a sense when the teams met in 2018 that "you could tell something was going on with the coaching staff. Now, they're playing hard."

The Cardinals fired Bobby Petrino eight days after the Clemson debacle last November and brought in Scott Satterfield when the season ended. Louisville held on to defeat then-19th-ranked Wake Forest 62-59 this past Saturday, its first win over a ranked opponent since 2016.

Elliott, also Clemson's running backs coach, understands how complacency can set in, especially for a team that hadn't lost since the 2017 playoffs.

"When you've had success, it's easy to say sometimes, 'OK, it's just going to happen,'" he said. "That's why it's a good reminder."

There was a feeling at Thursday's practice that any problems from the North Carolina win were in the past. "Once we hit that new week, we were refreshed, we were ready to go, we had a new edge and everybody was just ready to get back on the field, regardless of what happened," Anchrum said.

Top Scores for Week 6

83	USAFR1PILOT	Middle East
79	gbpack	Europe
74	Chad Hofwalt	Europe
74	Number1PatsFan	Middle East
72	KILDRIVR	United States
72	Lek-cellent	Pacific
72	Mick G.	Pacific
72	Tnewell199	Europe
72	jjsimons	Pacific
71	PurplePeopleEaters	Pacific

STARS AND STRIPES

NFL CHALLENGE

HALL OF FAME



Top 10 Overall Scores

539	gbpack	Europe
535	Review16	United States
526	hansenbh	Middle East
521	820th Horseman	Middle East
520	gobrownies43	Europe
508	PurplePeopleEaters	Pacific
505	cowboy48	United States
504	jeanfontenot	United States
499	dwsmith76	Pacific
497	KINGKAPP	Pacific

Week 07 DEADLINE

12 Noon US Central Time, Every Thursday

Log in every week during the 2019 NFL Season and make your picks for the winners of the upcoming NFL games. Earn points for every winning team you pick and at the end of the season, you may find yourself the winner.*

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AUTO RACING/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Blaney edges Newman to advance in playoffs

By JOHN ZENOR

Associated Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Ryan Blaney emerged safely from the wreckage at Talladega Superspeedway that claimed other playoff contenders, winning by a tiny margin that was huge for his championship hopes.

Blaney beat Ryan Newman in a door-to-door race to the finish line to win Monday and advance to the third round of NASCAR's playoffs.

Blaney's first win of the season came as he was in danger of getting eliminated from title contention. The playoff field will be trimmed from 12 drivers to eight next weekend at Kansas. Blaney had little margin for error after he had mechanical issues at Dover last weekend and finished 35th.

"Our mindset really was we had to win one of these two races," Blaney said. "We were so far back in points. I know Talladega's a wild card. There was a lot of wrecks today and a lot of guys got tore up. But we didn't really get any stage points and we were already pretty far behind the eight-ball."

"We knew we had to probably win one of these two weeks. It's just a huge relief."

Blaney joins Kyle Larson in the round of eight, with six spots still available.

After the win, he spotted a young fan in the crowd wearing his shirt and handed the boy the checkered flag.

The race began Sunday but was postponed by rain after the first stage. The delay gave Blaney time to recover from a Sunday spin as he tried to enter pit road, and ended with Ford and Team Penske as winners. Ford had won seven consecutive Talladega races until Chevrolet snapped that streak in April.

"An amazing effort the last two days, to be honest with you," Blaney said. "From spinning out early yesterday, missing some big ones today, weave our way through ... It just means a ton. I've been coming ever since I was really young. I love coming here. Love it even more now."

Blaney was the leader on a re-

start with two laps remaining and had a huge push from fellow Ford driver Aric Almirola to gain space on the field. Then Newman came charging along on the outside line with help from Denny Hamlin and Newman easily zipped past Blaney.

But the Ford train remained committed and Blaney got an other push from Almirola to pull alongside Newman. The two raced door-to-door to the finish line, with Blaney winning by a nose. The 0.0070-second margin of victory was the sixth-closest in the history of Talladega, which celebrated its 50th anniversary.

It was Ford's sixth straight Talladega playoff victory and Team Penske's seventh win in the last seven Cup races at the Alabama superspeedway.

The race had critical playoff implications as many of the title contenders struggled, and Hendrick Motorsports' entire lineup is at risk of elimination next weekend. Alex Bowman, Chase Elliott and William Byron are all below the cutline, as is Kansas native Clint Bowyer, who could be eliminated at his home track.

Newman, who was followed by Hamlin in a Toyota, said he knew Blaney was ahead of him at the line.

"I think I could have gone down and taken his air and he probably would have gone to the outside of me," Newman said. "That would have spun me (across the finish line). You could replay it 30 days from now and come up with 27 different answers."

It was a 1-2 sweep for Ford on a weekend in which manufacturer alliances were heavily scrutinized. Although all the manufacturers met with their teams to discuss strategy and sticking together for the sake of a brand victory, a meeting Sunday between the Chevrolet group angered fans who argued the alliances were a form of race manipulation.

Although the manufacturers have been doing this for at least five years in a Toyota-led effort, Chevrolet did not get on board until April.

Toyota had worked with Chevy drivers from Hendrick Motorsports to go 1-2-



AMANDA NEWMAN/AP

Ryan Blaney (12) narrowly slides by driver Ryan Newman to take the checkered flag in Monday's NASCAR Cup Series race at Talladega Superspeedway.



GREG MCWILLIAMS/AP

Kurt Busch (14) tries to drive below the crash of Jimmie Johnson (48), Alex Bowman (88) and Kyle Larson (42) during Monday's race.

3 in the Daytona 500. Chevrolet then won at Talladega and again at Daytona in July, the two tracks where the brand alliances work.

The highest-finishing Chevrolet on Monday at Talladega was Austin Dillon in sixth, Almirola finished fourth in a Ford, followed by Michael McDowell, Dillon, Corey LaJoie, Elliott, Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Ty Dillon.

The race was stopped with seven laps remaining after an

accident at the front of the field. Stenhouse and Kurt Busch were side-drafting for the lead when Busch suddenly spun to the right, directly into title contender Brad Keselowski. The chain reaction caused Brendan Gaughan's car to flip over the car of Kurt Busch and land on its wheels.

"Mother, it is OK, it is just a flip and it didn't hurt, I promise," Gaughan said into a television camera. "It was just one easy,

quick flip and we put it down."

Keselowski's car was destroyed, but he got it rolling down pit road for the sole purpose of passing Gaughan and Martin Truex Jr. in the running order, gaining two more points that very well could be needed next week when the playoff field is cut.

Two of the Hendrick Motorsports title contenders had terrible days as both Bowman and Byron caused multicar accidents.

Bowman triggered one in the second stage when he tried to block Joey Logano, who hit him and sent Bowman spinning into traffic.

"My guess is that I threw a block I shouldn't have," Bowman said. "I got shoved away out there. I knew (Logano) was coming and I just tried to move down just a little bit. ... They just had a bigger run than I realized. I should have let him go and shouldn't have thrown a block."

Byron's crash occurred when he lost control following a push from Kurt Busch. It turned Byron's car hard into Logano, whose car suffered significant damage.

Bowman, who also collected fellow Hendrick driver Jimmie Johnson, finished 37th. Byron wound up 33rd and joined Bowman and Elliott as drivers in danger of elimination at Kansas.

Vols confident QB Maurer will play against No. 1 Alabama

By STEVE MEGARREE

Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee coach Jeremy Pruitt believes quarterback Brian Maurer will be available Saturday at No. 1 Alabama after a concussion prevented the freshman from finishing a 20-10 victory over Mississippi State last week.

"Brian took some reps last night at practice," Pruitt said Monday. "So he's going to be fine, I'm sure."

Maurer was making his second career start last week when he scrambled for a 13-yard gain late in the second quarter and landed headfirst. Maurer initially stayed in the game, handing the ball off twice before throwing an interception.

Pruitt ended Maurer's afternoon, as Jarrett Guarantano handled

Tennessee's quarterback duties for the rest of the game. Pruitt said afterward that his quarterback had sustained a concussion.

Pruitt was asked Monday why Maurer wasn't evaluated immediately after the 13-yard run.

"He hit his head on the ground, he jumps up and runs back in the huddle, gets a call, calls the next play," Pruitt said. "Every play there's a lot of people running into each other and they're hitting their heads. I think we could stop the game and evaluate everybody out there, but I don't think we have time for that."

Maurer's condition isn't the only issue facing Tennessee as it prepares for its toughest challenge of the season. Alabama (6-0, 3-0 SEC) has beaten Tennessee 12 straight times with an average margin of 25.6 points.

Alabama is favored by 35, but Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban is taking nothing for granted in this matchup with his former assistant. Pruitt was Alabama's director of player development from 2007-09, defensive backs coach from 2010-12 and defensive coordinator from 2016-17.

"Jeremy has done a really, really good job there," Saban said. "His team to me is emerging. They lost two games that they very easily could have won, but they're playing with great discipline, toughness. The players are really playing hard. They're executing well in terms of what they did and probably played their best game this last game against Mississippi State."

Tennessee's defense won't be close to full strength as it faces an Alabama offense averaging 41 points to rank second among all Football Bowl Subdivision teams.

Linebacker Henry To'o To'o received a targeting penalty in the second half of the Mississippi State game, which means the Volunteers (2-4, 1-2) must play the first half at Alabama without their second-leading tackler.

Alabama receiver DeVonta Smith also is facing discipline after getting ejected from the Tide's 47-28 triumph over Texas A&M. Saban said Smith probably would sit out the first half of the Tennessee game.

The difference is that Alabama arguably has the nation's deepest receiving corps, while Tennessee has a severe talent shortage at inside linebacker. Tennessee's linebacker depth took a hit earlier this season when Jeremy Banks was dismissed from the team and Will Ignont and Shannon Reid left the program.

NHL



KATHLEEN MALONE-VAN DYKE/AP

The St. Louis Blues' Vladimir Tarasenko, left, skates away as New York Islanders teammates celebrate Devon Toews' game-winning overtime goal in a 3-2 victory Monday in Unione, N.Y.

Roundup

Islanders clinch comeback with Toews' overtime goal

Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Devon Toews scored at 1:13 of overtime to complete a stunning late-game comeback by the New York Islanders as they downed the St. Louis Blues 3-2 on Monday.

The Blues seemed to have the game well in hand in the closing minutes before Brock Nelson put the home team on the board with his third goal of the season at 14:29 of the third. Mathew Barzal then tied the game at 19:33 off a scramble in front with Islanders goalie Thomas Greiss pulled for an extra attacker.

That set the stage for Toews' goal. Barzal and Nelson had the assists. That sent what had been a mostly silent crowd at Nassau Coliseum into a frenzy as the defending champion Blues skated off toward their locker room. Greiss made 21 saves for the win.

Goals from Brayden Schenn and Vladimir Tarasenko had given St. Louis a 2-0 lead.

Bruins 4, Ducks 2: David Pastrnak scored a career-high four goals for his fifth career hat trick, leading host Boston over Anaheim.

Jaroslav Halak stopped 30 shots and Brad Marchand added two assists for the Bruins, the Stanley Cup runner-up off to a 5-1 start.

Rickard Rakell and Adam Henrique scored for the Ducks, and John Gibson made 19 saves. Anaheim has lost two of three after winning its first three games this season.

Pastrnak completed his hat

trick with an unassisted goal off a faceoff. He stole the puck from defenseman Josh Mason and slipped a wrist shot between John Gibson's pads 2:20 into the third period to make it 3-1, prompting fans to throw hats on the ice.

The 23-year-old forward scored 2:14 later off a nice feed from Marchand.

Panthers 6, Devils 4: Mackenzie Weegar scored the tying goal and set up Noel Acciari for the go-ahead tally and Florida rallied from a three-goal deficit for a win at winless New Jersey.

Brett Connolly scored twice, Jonathan Huberdeau and Evgenii Dandenov also had goals as the Panthers snapped a three-game losing streak. Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 17 shots as he improved his career mark against the Devils to 17-1-5.

Pavel Zacha, Taylor Hall, Jesper Bratt and Will Butcher scored for New Jersey, which fell to 0-4-2. Cory Schneider made 28 saves.

Wild 2, Senators 0: Alex Stalock stopped all 26 shots he faced and Minnesota won at Ottawa for its first win of the season. Victor Rask and Zach Parise scored third-period goals for the Wild (1-4-0).

Stalock, in his first start of the season, earned his sixth career shutout.

Craig Anderson stopped 33 shots for the Senators (1-4-0), who wrapped up a four-game homestand with a 1-3-0 record.

After two scoreless periods, Minnesota opened the scoring midway through the third. Rask had a great takeaway on Jean-

Gabriel Pageau and then beat Anderson short-side.

Sabres 4, Stars 0: Rookie forward Victor Olofsson set an NHL record by becoming the first player to score his first seven career goals on the power play, Carter Hutton made 25 saves to earn his first shutout of the season, and host Buffalo kept up its strong start.

Sam Reinhart, Jeff Skinner and Marcus Johansson had the other goals and Jack Eichel recorded two assists for the Sabres. Olofsson also had an assist.

Avalanche 6, Capitals 3: Nazem Kadri and Mikko Rantanen each had a goal and two assists to help visiting Colorado improve to 5-0-0.

Erik Johnson, Nikita Zadorov and Matt Nieto also scored for the Avalanche. Nathan MacKinnon added an empty-net goal and had an assist for Colorado, which scored on its first three shots of the game.

Blackhawks 3, Oilers 1: Patrick Kane and Alexander Nylander scored, Corey Crawford stopped 27 shots, and host Chicago got its first win of the season.

Brandon Saad added an empty-netter with 32.7 seconds left to seal the win for the Blackhawks, who went 0-2-1 in its first three games. Crawford lost a bid for his 26th career shutout when James Neal scored his NHL-leading eighth goal on a power-play with 2:11 remaining.

Mike Smith finished with 32 saves for Edmonton, which had opened the season with five wins.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Buffalo	6	5	0	1	11	25	13
Boston	6	5	1	0	10	16	10
Toronto	6	5	1	0	10	24	12
Detroit	5	3	2	0	6	16	21
Montreal	5	2	2	1	6	21	21
Florida	5	2	2	1	6	19	24
Tampa Bay	5	2	2	1	5	20	17
Ottawa	5	2	2	1	5	12	19

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	6	4	2	0	8	25	16
Pittsburgh	7	3	3	1	7	24	22
Washington	7	3	3	1	7	22	23
N.Y. Islanders	7	3	3	1	6	17	17
Philadelphia	3	2	0	1	5	6	6
N.Y. Rangers	3	2	0	1	5	6	6
Columbus	5	2	3	0	4	11	18
New Jersey	6	0	4	2	2	13	29

Western Conference

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	5	5	0	0	10	22	12
St. Louis	6	3	3	0	6	19	20
Winnipeg	7	4	2	1	9	24	22
Nashville	5	3	2	0	6	23	21
Chicago	5	3	2	0	6	12	13
Minnesota	7	1	5	1	3	13	23
San Jose	6	1	4	1	2	12	21

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Edmonton	6	5	1	0	10	23	16
Vegas	4	4	0	0	8	24	14
Anaheim	6	4	2	0	8	13	10
Calgary	6	4	2	0	8	15	10
Vancouver	4	2	2	0	4	13	10
Los Angeles	3	2	0	1	5	10	6
San Jose	6	2	4	0	4	13	22
Arizona	2	2	0	1	7	7	7

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Sunday's games

Pittsburgh 7, Winnipeg 2

Vegas 5, Los Angeles 2

San Jose 3, Calgary 1

Monday's games

N.Y. Islanders 3, St. Louis 2, OT

Boston 4, Anaheim 2

Minnesota 2, Ottawa 0

Florida 6, New Jersey 4

Buffalo 4, Dallas 0

Chicago 3, Edmonton 1

Tuesday's games

Tampa Bay at Montreal

Minnesota at Toronto

Arizona at Winnipeg

Philadelphia at Calgary

Detroit at Vancouver

Nashville at Vegas

Carolina at Los Angeles

Wednesday's games

Dallas at Columbus

Colorado at Pittsburgh

Toronto at Washington

Nashville at Edmonton

Buffalo at Anaheim

Carolina at San Jose

Thursday's games

Tampa Bay at Boston

Minnesota at Montreal

N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey

Vancouver at St. Louis

N.Y. Islanders at Winnipeg

Detroit at Calgary

Ottawa at Vegas

Buffalo at Los Angeles

Monday

Avalanche 6, Capitals 3

Colorado 6, Washington 3

First Period—1, Colorado, Johnson 1 (Zadorov, Wood), 3:42, 2, Colorado, Badurkovic 1 (MacKinnon, Rantanen), 6:00, 3, Colorado, Kadri 1 (Gusev, Zacha), 7:54, 4, Colorado, Rantanen 4 (Kadri, Landeskog), 9:25 (pp).

Goals—Colorado 6, Washington 0 (2-3-0).

Third Period—1, Colorado, Nieto 1 (Zach, Wood), 2:28, 2, New Jersey, Carlson 1 (Kuznetsov), 17:39, 3, Colorado, MacKinnon 2 (Landeskog, Rantanen), 20:25.

Shots on Goal—Colorado 10-7-8-25.

Washington 4-16-12-32.

Power-play opportunities—Colorado 1 of 2; Washington 0 of 2.

Goals—Colorado 6, Grubauer 4-0-0 (32 shots-25 saves). Washington, Holtby 1-1 (2-0-0, sameston 2-0-0-1-3).

A-18,573 (18,277). T-2:38.

Panthers 6, Devils 4

Florida 6, New Jersey 4

First Period—1, Florida, Huberdeau 1 (Barkov, Dandenov), 0:16, 2, New Jersey, Hall 1 (Vesey, Lindgren), 2:28, 3, New Jersey, Bratt 1 (Gusev, Zacha), 19:13.

Second Period—4, New Jersey, Butcher 1 (Zach, Wood), 4:32, 5, New Jersey, Zacha 1 (Hall, Subban), 1:08, 6, Florida, Dandenov 1 (Oleksiak, Yandell), 15:32.

Third Period—3, Florida, 2, Trochey 2 (Hoffman, Trochey), 19:52.

Fourth Period—3, Florida, 2, Trochey 2 (Eklblad), 0:30, 9, Florida, Acia 2 (Weegar, Eklblad), 7:30, 10, Florida, Dandenov 4 (Oleksiak, Yandell), 15:32.

Shots on Goal—Florida 12-9-13-34.

New Jersey 9-9-4-21.

Nov. 18 — Hockey Hall of Fame induction ceremony, Toronto.

Nov. 20-21 — Winter Classic, Dallas vs. Nashville at Cotton Bowl, Dallas.

Jan. 26 — All-Star Game, St. Louis.

April 4 — Regular season ends.

Bruins 4, Ducks 2

Anaheim 0, 1 1-2

Boston 1, 1 2-4

First Period—1, Boston, Pastrnak 3 (Kruis, Bergeron), 4:18 (pp).

Second Period—2, Boston, Pastrnak 4 (Marchand), 11:33, 3, Anaheim, Rakell 2 (Henrique, Fowler), 17:52.

Third Period—4, Boston, Pastrnak 5, 22:0, 5, Boston, Pastrnak 5 (Marchand, Krupp), 4:34 (pp), 6, Anaheim, Henrique 2 (N.Ritchie), 16:08.

Shots on Goal—Anaheim 8-16-32.

Boston 11-6-6-23.

Power-play opportunities—Anaheim 0 of 4; Boston 2 of 2.

Goals—Anaheim, Gibson 3-2-0 (23 shots-19 saves). Boston, Hatak 2-1-0 (32-30).

A-17,193 (17,565). T-2:41.

Sabres 4, Stars 0

Dallas 0, 0 0-0

Second Period—1, Buffalo, Olofsson 5 (Eichel, Dahlin), 6:27 (pp), 2, Buffalo, Reinhart 3 (Olofsson, Eichel), 17:56.

Third Period—3, Buffalo, Skinner 4 (Jokiharju, Sobotta), 4:20, 4, Buffalo, Johansson 3 (McCabe, Ristolainen), 6:02.

Shots on Goal—Dallas 5-8-12-25.

Buffalo 6-13-3-22.

Power-play opportunities—Dallas 0 of 2; Buffalo 1 of 2.

Goals—Dallas, Bishop 1-3-1 (22 shots-18 saves). Buffalo, Hutton 4-0-0 (24-19).

A-16,995 (19,070). T-2:18.

Islanders 3, Blues 2 (OT)

St. Louis 1, 0 1 0-2

N.Y. Islanders 0, 0 2 1-3

First Period—1, St. Louis, Schenn 5 (Faulk, Schwartz), 6:48.

Second Period—2, St. Louis, Tarasenko 1 (Dunn, Schenn), 5:22 (pp), 3, N.Y. Islanders, Nelson 3 (Dai Col, Lucks), 4, N.Y. Islanders, Barzal 1 (Boychuk), 19:33.

Overtime—5, N.Y. Islanders, Toews 2 (Barzal, Nelson), 1:13.

Shots on Goal—St. Louis 7-10-6-23.

N.Y. Islanders 9-8-18-32.

Power-play opportunities—St. Louis 1 of 2; N.Y. Islanders 0 of 1.

Goals—St. Louis, Binnington 2-1-2 (32 shots-26 saves). N.Y. Islanders, Greiss 2-1-0 (23-21).

A-10,359 (13,917). T-2:35.

Wild 2, Senators 0

Minnesota 0, 0 0-0

Third Period—1, Minnesota, Rask 1 (Greenway), 9:23, 2, Minnesota, Parise 2 (Krovi), 17:41.

Shots on Goal—Minnesota 11-12-12-35.

Ottawa 7-12-7-26.

Power-play opportunities—Minnesota 0 of 6; Ottawa 0 of 1.

Goals—Minnesota, Stalock 1-0-0 (26 shots-26 saves). Ottawa, Anderson 1-0-0 (34-33).

A-11,500 (18,572). T-2:35.

Blackhawks 3, Oilers 1

Edmonton 0, 0 0-1

Chicago 1, 0 1-3

Second Period—1, Chicago, Kane 2 (Strome), 4:11.

Third Period—2, Chicago, Nylander 2 (Carpenter), 6:20, 2, Edmonton, Neal 8 (Draisaitl, Nugent-Hopkins), 17:49 (pp), 4, Chicago, Saad 2 (Kampf, Toews), 18:27.

Shots on Goal—Edmonton 12-10-28.

Chicago 16-10-28-54.

Power-play opportunities—Edmonton 1 of 3; Chicago 0 of 3.

Goals—Chicago, Smith 3-1-0 (34 shots-32 saves). Chicago, Crawford 1-0-0 (28-27).

A-21,260 (19,717). T-2:25.

Scoring Leaders

Through Monday

GP G A PTS

Leon Draisaitl, EDM 6 4 8 12

Connor McDavid, EDM 6 4 8 12

Patrick Kane, WPG 7 6 11 13

John Carlson, BOS 7 6 9 11

David Pastrnak, WAS 6 6 4 10

Mark Stone, PIT 6 5 9 10

Sidney Crosby, PIT 6 3 7 10

Brad Marchand, BOS 6 4 5 9

Mathew Barzal, BUF 6 4 5 9

Mikko Rantanen, COL 5 4 5 9

Max Domi, BUF 5 4 5 9

Mike Danielson, NSH 5 2 7 9

11 tied with 8 points

Calendar

Oct. 26 — Tim Hortons NHL Heritage Classic, Calgary vs. Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatchewan.

Nov. 18 — Hockey Hall of Fame induction ceremony, Toronto.

Jan. 4, 2020 — Winter Classic, Dallas vs. Nashville at Cotton Bowl, Dallas.

Jan. 26 — All-Star Game, St. Louis.

April 4 — Regular season ends.

NFL

Engram's return could help battered Giants

Barkley might also be back for Arizona game

By Tom Canavan
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The anemic and injury-plagued New York Giants' offense expects to get a little help when it plays the Arizona Cardinals this weekend in a game matching the first two quarterbacks taken in this year's NFL Draft.

Giants tight end Evan Engram was optimistic Monday about playing Sunday at MetLife Stadium, and there is a chance 2018 NFL Offensive Rookie of Year Saquon Barkley also will be back.

Engram, who is having a break-out season, missed Thursday night's 35-14 loss to the New England Patriots with a knee injury. Barkley has missed the last three games with a high ankle sprain suffered against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sept. 15.

The status of top receiver Sterling Shepard is uncertain. He missed the Patriots' game with his second concussion this season. He took part in individual drills Monday, but coach Pat Shurmur refused to talk about his status.

"It's unfortunate," Engram said of the team not having three major cogs in the offense. "We've talked about it. We can't dwell on it. We have to keep moving."

One sign that Shepard may be out a little longer was New York signing veteran receiver Bennie Fowler, who was cut before the game against the Minnesota Vikings. Shepard was hurt in that contest.

The Giants (2-4) have done very little offensively in the last two games, being limited to 211 total yards in a 28-10 loss to the Vikings and 213 against the Patriots.

Engram, who had a team-high 33 catches for 373 yards and two TDs, and Barkley watched Thurs-

"It (hurt) not being out there, but like I said, there are things out of our control. ... We just have to do what we can and be ready."

Evan Engram
Giants tight end

day night's game at Shepard's home.

"It's tough, definitely opportunities in that game," Engram said. "It (hurt) not being out there, but like I said, there are things out of our control. When they do happen we can't really dwell and pout and not gain anything from it. We just have to do what we can and be ready."

In the last two games, Daniel Jones and the offense accounted for one touchdown in each game. A big kickoff return by rookie Corey Ballentine set up the TD against the Vikings and the one against the Patriots was on a 64-yard pass to Golden Tate III.

The good news for the Giants is that while they have lost their last two games, Dallas and Philadelphia (both 3-3) lost over the weekend. New York is a game out of first place in the NFC East heading into the matchup with Kyle Murray and the Cardinals (2-3-1).

Murray was the No. 1 overall pick in the draft. Jones was taken No. 6.

"I have seen some crazy things happen in this league," veteran safety Antoine Bethea said. "Two-and-four is not where we wanted to be. We just have to focus on Ar-



BRAD PENNER/AP

New York Giants tight end Evan Engram is expected to return to action Sunday against Arizona.

izona. That's our biggest test right now. We get this one, get to 3-4, and then it's one game at a time."

Notes: Rookie RB Jon Hillman, whose fumble led to Kyle Van Noy's game-breaking 22-yard fumble return in the fourth

quarter against New England, was waived Friday, when RB Buck Allen was signed. Linebacker Nate Stupar, whose man pushed him back so close to Riley Dixon that the punter's kick deflected off him and was returned

for a touchdown Thursday, was waived Monday. Fowler was signed to replace him. ... Second-year CB Sam Beal, who has been on injured reserve since the start of the season, may start practicing Wednesday.

Panthers will face tough choice at QB

By Steve Reed
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Kyle Allen keeps on winning, making Panthers coach Ron Rivera's inevitable decision at quarterback more difficult with each passing week.

Allen started out as a nice story — an undrafted QB who beat Arizona on the road in Week 3 to help the Panthers stop the losing after starting 0-2 at home under Cam Newton.

But after leading the Panthers to four straight victories, it's hard not to wonder if Carolina isn't better off sticking with Allen even when Newton is healthy enough to play.

On the surface, that sounds ridiculous given Newton was the league MVP four years ago. But Newton hasn't been himself in a long time. He's lost eight straight

starts. Allen, on the other hand, is 5-0 as an NFL starter, including 4-0 this season.

He's energized the offense. Allen efficiently completed 20 of 32 passes for 227 yards and two touchdowns on Sunday to lead the Panthers to a 37-26 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in London.

In four starts, Allen has completed 65.6% of his passes for 901 yards with seven touchdowns and no interceptions and a 106.6 quarterback rating, which ranks fifth in the NFL behind only Russell Wilson, Patrick Mahomes, Kirk Cousins and Deshaun Watson. Allen is the first NFL quarterback in history to win his first five starts without throwing an interception, although he has turned the ball over four times on fumbles.

So, the question becomes whether Rivera should reinsert

Newton into the starting lineup once he's healthy enough to play. The Panthers have a bye week coming up, giving Newton extra time to rest before the next game Oct. 27 at San Francisco.

A few weeks ago, Rivera said it was Newton's job when he returned, but the ninth-year coach wasn't ready to discuss hypotheticals after Carolina's last win.

"Quite honestly, I don't answer the question," Rivera said. "I'm not going to worry, speculate on anything until I have to address that. Until then, we're going to stay in the now, focus on what we're doing right now. Again, as far as I'm concerned, we're just not going to deal with the question until it's time. ... (Newton) is in his rehab program, doing his program. Our quarterback right now that has been playing for us is Kyle. We're not going to address it."



TIM IRELAND/AP

Quarterback Kyle Allen has led the Carolina Panthers to four consecutive wins after the team began 0-2 under Cam Newton.

NFL

Scoreboard

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	6	0	0	1.000	190	48
Buffalo	4	1	0	.800	90	70
N.Y. Jets	1	4	0	.200	63	123
Miami	0	5	0	.000	42	180
South						
Houston	4	2	0	.667	162	134
Indianapolis	3	2	0	.600	113	115
Jacksonville	2	4	0	.333	117	131
Tennessee	2	4	0	.333	98	92
North						
Baltimore	4	1	0	.667	184	140
Cleveland	2	4	0	.333	120	154
Pittsburgh	2	4	0	.333	123	131
Cincinnati	0	6	0	.000	97	159
West						
Kansas City	4	2	0	.667	172	144
Oakland	3	2	0	.600	103	123
Denver	1	5	0	.200	123	106
L.A. Chargers	2	4	0	.333	120	118

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	3	3	0	.500	153	114
Philadelphia	3	3	0	.500	161	149
N.Y. Giants	2	4	0	.333	111	160
Washington	0	6	0	.000	90	167
South						
New Orleans	5	1	0	.833	128	122
Carolina	4	2	0	.667	166	133
Tampa Bay	4	2	0	.667	173	185
Atlanta	1	5	0	.200	135	186
North						
Green Bay	5	1	0	.833	142	115
Minnesota	4	2	0	.667	150	93
Chicago	3	2	0	.600	97	69
Detroit	2	4	0	.333	119	118
West						
San Francisco	5	1	0	1.000	147	64
Seattle	5	1	0	.833	165	146
L.A. Rams	4	2	0	.667	153	154
Arizona	2	3	1	.417	134	171

Thursday's games

New England 35, N.Y. Giants 14
Sunday's games
Carolina 37, Tampa Bay 26
New Orleans 13, Jacksonville 6
Houston 31, Kansas City 24
Minnesota 38, Philadelphia 20
Washington 17, Miami 16
Minnesota 23, Cincinnati 17
Seattle 32, Cleveland 28
Arizona 24, Atlanta 32
San Francisco 20, L.A. Rams 7
Denver 16, Tennessee 0
N.Y. Jets 24, Dallas 22
Pittsburgh 24, L.A. Chargers 17
Open: Buffalo, Indianapolis, Chicago, Oakland

Monday's games

Green Bay 23, Detroit 22
Thursday, Oct. 17
Kansas City at Denver
Sunday, Oct. 20
Miami at Buffalo
Houston at Indianapolis
Arizona at N.Y. Giants
Oakland at Green Bay
L.A. Rams at Atlanta
Minnesota at Detroit
Jacksonville at Cincinnati
San Francisco at Seattle
L.A. Chargers at Tennessee
Baltimore at Baltimore
New Orleans at Chicago
Philadelphia at Dallas
Open: Tampa Bay, Cleveland, Carolina, Pittsburgh

Monday

Packers 23, Lions 21

Detroit	10	3	6	3-22
Green Bay	1	0	3	10-23
First Quarter				
Det.-FG Prater 26, 12:41.				
Det.-K.Johnson 1 run (Prater kick), 6:35.				
Second Quarter				
Det.-FG Prater 22, 13:28.				
GB-J.Williams 5 pass from Rodgers (M.Crosby kick), 10:25.				
GB-FG M.Crosby 37, 07.				
Third Quarter				
GB-FG M.Crosby 48, 12:35.				
Det.-FG Prater 41, 9:01.				
Det.-FG Prater 51, 8:22.				
Fourth Quarter				
Det.-FG Prater 54, 12:17.				
GB-Lazard 35 pass from Rodgers (M.Crosby kick), 5:03.				
GB-FG M.Crosby 23, 00.				
A-76:947.				

	Det	GB
First downs	13	22
Total Net Yards	299	447
Rushes-yards	20-56	29-170
Passing	243	277
Punt Returns	0-0	1(-9)
Kickoff Returns	2-55	6-96
Interceptions Ret.	1-55	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	18-32-0	24-39-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-22	1-6
Punts	4-46.5	3-51.7
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-2
Penalties-Yards	8-50	6-48
Time of Possession	26:56	33:04

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Detroit: K.Johnson 13-34, Stafford 2-9, Peterson 18-32-0.
ASTUTES—Detroit: Stafford 18-32-0.
GREEN BAY, Rodgers 24-39-1-283.
DETROIT, Stafford 18-32-0-121, Henderson 4-21, K.Johnson 2-27, M.Jones 1-15, Valdes-Scantling 2-48, Graham 2-17, Kumerow 2-17, Shepherd 1-1.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.



PHOTOS BY JEFFREY PHELPS/AP

Green Bay Packers kicker Mason Crosby celebrates hitting the game-winning field goal by jumping in the stands at Lambeau Field following his team's 23-22 defeat of the Detroit Lions Monday night in Green Bay, Wis.

Packers' rally gives Lions the boot

Green Bay gets crucial calls, Crosby hits late field goal to edge Detroit

By KEITH JENKINS

Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — It took Mason Crosby 13 seasons to perform his first Lambeau Leap.

The 35-year-old kicker nailed a 23-yard field goal as time expired and jumped into the crowd with a boost from long snapper Hunter Bradley after he finished off a rally for the Green Bay Packers, who benefited from some questionable officiating to edge the Detroit Lions 23-22 on Monday night.

"That was fun, yeah," Crosby said of leaping into the crowd. "That feeling, once you get up in the stands, the energy in there and teammates and everyone's around, that's something I'll always remember. That was great."

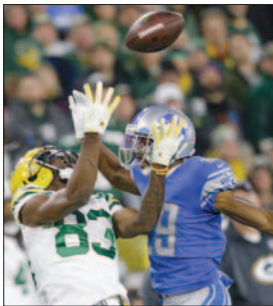
Aaron Rodgers, in his second straight game without top target Davante Adams, completed 24 of 39 passes for 283 yards and two touchdowns, including a beautiful 35-yard throw to Allen Lazard for the second-year pro's first career score.

"I actually sit next to him in the team meetings," Rodgers said of Lazard, who was cut by the Packers in August and then signed to the practice squad to start the season. "We've struck up a pretty good friendship."

"The thing that got me was, which you love as a quarterback, and that's when your receiver's coming back and telling you he wants the ball and what route he wants to run. ... That was him coming back in the huddle, telling me what play he wanted, and for a young guy to tell that, how can you not have confidence in that?"

Rodgers linked up with Jamaal Williams for the other TD. Williams finished with 104 yards on 14 carries and four catches for 32 yards for Green Bay (5-1), which captured its first win in five tries against its NFC North rival.

The Packers, who are off to their first 3-0 start in the NFC North since 2012, might not have pulled it off if not for two fourth-quarter



Green Bay Packers wide receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling (83) hauls in a catch past Detroit Lions cornerback Rashawn Melvin.

penalties for illegal hands to the face against Detroit's Trey Flowers, both of them on third down. The first set up Lazard's touchdown, and the second allowed Green Bay to run the clock down to 2 seconds before Crosby's game-winner. In both cases, replays showed Flowers' hands on the neck or shoulder — not the face — of a Packers lineman.

"I actually changed the position of my hand, because it was to the chest initially," Flowers said. "It was doing it all game. I didn't know that was a flag to the chest, so I changed it. And he called it again."

"I didn't think hands to the chest was a penalty. I thought hands to the face, but I had him right here in the chest. The second time I changed it. ... That's part of a move that I do. So, nah, I don't think that was a penalty." Referee Clete Blakeman said each of the calls was made by umpire Jeff Rice, and he

discussed the last one with him.

"Basically, it's for illegal use of the hands, hands-to-the-face foul," Blakeman told a pool reporter. "To be a foul, we basically need some forceful contact that's prolonged to the head and neck area of the defender."

"So, in his mind he had pinned him back, it was prolonged, and that's what created the foul."

Matt Prater was good from 26, 22, 41, 51 and 54 yards for the Lions (2-2-1), who fell to 0-2 under Matt Patricia on Monday night. Detroit lost its last Monday night game to the Jets 48-17 last year.

"We got to find a way to finish," said Kenny Golladay, who had 121 yards on five catches for Detroit. "That's a big part of it right now. Find a way to finish. We left a lot of points out there. We were in the red zone quite a bit and just coming out with field goals. That's tough, especially when you've got a guy, a quarterback on the other side that you, you've got to finish."

Matthew Stafford finished 18-for-32 for 265 yards and was sacked three times.

Kerryon Johnson scored the lone touchdown for the Lions from 1 yard out in the first quarter. Preston Smith and Za'Darius Smith each had a sack for Green Bay. Preston Smith and Kyler Fackrell combined for the other.

3,000 yards and running

Rodgers surpassed 3,000 career rushing yards on a 12-yard run in the fourth quarter. He's the 13th Packers player to reach the milestone.

Injuries

Packers: WR Marquez Valdes-Scantling had his right leg bend under him on a tackle in the second quarter. He was able to walk off under his own power. WR Geronimo Allison was carted off the field following a helmet-to-helmet hit by Tracy Walker.

SPORTS

NLCS

Nats take command

Strasburg strikes out 12, puts Washington on verge of city's first World Series since 1933

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 100 pitches in, Stephen Strasburg was adamant he wasn't quite ready to leave the latest superb start by a Nationals pitcher against the St. Louis Cardinals in the NL Championship Series — one that led to a victory that put Washington on the verge of the city's first World Series in 86 years.

It was the seventh inning, and manager Dave Martinez noticed Strasburg had flexed his right leg and reached for that hamstring. So the skipper and a trainer went to the mound to check on their guy.

"I was trying to explain to him, 'Hey, you just grabbed your hamstring, so there's a little concern,'" Martinez recalled. "He said, 'No, I cramped up. It's fine. I always cramp up.' He said, 'I'm staying in the game. I want to finish this inning.' I said, 'You sure you're all right?' He said, 'I'm in the game!'"

The right-hander did, indeed, stay in. He even struck out the next two batters to raise his total to 12 Ks, each finished with an off-speed pitch. Strasburg took his turn silencing the Cardinals' struggling bats, Nationals postseason star Howie Kendrick doubled three times and drove in three more runs, and Washington took a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven NLCS by beating St. Louis 8-1 Monday night.

SEE COMMAND ON PAGE 29

Nationals starter Stephen Strasburg throws his 117th and final pitch during the seventh inning against the St. Louis Cardinals on Monday night in Washington. Washington won Game 3 of the National League Championship Series 8-1.

JEFF ROBERSON/AP



Inside:

■ Cardinals abandoned by offense, defense as they fall into 3-0 hole, Page 29

Favorable calls, FG lift Packers over Lions » NFL, Page 31

